No.17 June-July $3.95/$4.95 Canada

OVERSTREET'S Price Update

- Completely Revised
- Latest Hot Titles
- Regional Market Reports
- "What's Hot & What's Not" Reports
- Fully Illustrated

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AND DEADLINES

Rates:

Full Page $300
Half Page $200

Deadline is the 15th of the month prior to publication month.

Publication Months:

February
June
August
October
December

Include payment with copy.

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ISBN: 0-911903-02-X

THE OVERSTREET UPDATE

GENERAL INFORMATION

About Pricing - The prices shown in this guide represent an honest and responsible evaluation of current market values. The prices represent an average of dealer retail prices compiled from data supplied by our Board Of Special Advisors. Prices often vary widely from region to region because supply and demand varies. Therefore, each seller should determine prices based in part by using this guide, and also by understanding his/her regional supply and demand factors.

WHAT THESE PRICES ARE: The prices in this Update, particularly on more expensive books, are a Moving Average of the market prices realized over the last few months. Thus every Update picks up figures for the latest quarter and drops those for the earliest, then a new average is computed. It is important for collectors to understand that since the Update Price is an average, it will never be the same as the highest or most recent sales price.

When buying collections, dealers will normally pay 1/4 to 3/4 of this Guide value based on inventory needs and local market conditions.

PRICING LOWER GRADES

Prices listed in this Guide are for comic books in NEAR MINT condition. The value of a comic in a lower grade can be determined by multiplying the price shown by the appropriate percentage as shown below using the SAME PERCENTAGES for that issue as shown in The Official Overstreet Comic Book Price Guide:

Near Mint = ... 100%
Very Fine-Near Mint = ... 90% of Update price
Very Fine = ... 70 - 75% of Update price
Fine-Very Fine = ... 55 - 60% of Update price
Fine = ... 40 - 45% of Update price (Comics from 1970 - Present are at 50% of Update for Fine)
Very Good-Fine = ... 35% of Update price
Very Good = ... 30% of Update price
Good-Very Good ..... 20% of Update price
Good = ... 10 - 15% of Update price depending on spread
Fair = ... 30-50% of Good price

GRADING COMIC BOOKS - THE CRITICAL FACTOR

Note: This grading section replaces all previous grading definitions in prior editions of The Official Overstreet Comic Book Price Guide..

Please note: Age is not a factor when grading comic books. A 30 year old comic book should be graded with the same criteria as a 1 year old comic book.

Before a comic book's market value can be assessed, its state of preservation (or condition) must be determined. In comic books, as in most collectible fields, condition determines value. Comic books in MINT condition will bring many times the price of the same book in POOR condition. Therefore it is very important to be able to properly grade your books. Comics should be graded from the inside out, in order that no defects are overlooked; so the following steps should be taken to properly grade a comic book. The most difficult aspect of this process is remaining objective, without allowing wishful thinking to influence your assessment.

1. Check inside pages. Gently open the comic to the centerfold (except for annuals) and let it lay in the cup of your hand. Check the condition of the paper for suppleness, whiteness/browning/brittleness. Smell paper for freshness/acidity. If the book is brittle or too brown, you may not want to go further; especially check along the spine and outer edges for browning/brittleness. If the paper looks o.k., then proceed and check the following: Centerfold for tightness and secured staples (centerfolds are sometimes replaced from other books-check for trimming and color variations from rest of book); tears or chunks missing from the inside pages; missing pages (count pages); edges for possible trimming (trimmed book edges appear whiter and flatter than normal); soiling, water marks, tape, crayoning, inking or penciling; repairs, gluing and paper replacement; panels, coupons or pages out out.

2. Check inside covers. Check the condition of the inside cover paper for suppleness, whiteness/browning/brittleness. Look for unusual whiteness compared to other pages in the book which may indicate the book has been bleached. Look for tears, chunks, missing, paper replacement, tear repairs, tape, writing, dirt, water marks, soiling or any noticeable defect that would detract from the grading. Let light reflect off the surface of the cover and check cover edges for pieces replaced.

3. Check inside spine. Check the entire area along the spine, especially where the cover is attached. Look for spine splitting, loose staples that have pulled through the cover, cover & spine paper replacement, tear repairs, gluing, tape repairs, staple reinforcement, recoloring bleed-through from front, spine reinforcement, bleaching or any other noticeable defect.

4. Check outside spine. Check spine for tightness, proper folding (centering & rolled spine), proper stapling and condition of spine corners. Spine corners are easily damaged, so look for rubbing, pieces missing and splitting. Check spine for stress lines and determine the number of stress lines along the spine. Check staple areas for tear repair, recoloring, reinforcement and staple replacement (replaced staples should match the originals as closely as possible) (fraying around staple holes may indicate that the staples had been removed at one time). Look for splitting, paper replacement, recoloring, sewing holes, gluing, tape, soiling, pieces missing or any other defect that would detract from the grade.

GRADING COMIC BOOKS - THE CRITICAL FACTOR

5. Check outside covers. Here is where the slightest amount of wear and abuse really shows. The outside appearance of covers subjectively affects grading more than anything else, although inside condition has to influence the final grade given a book. Remember, a mint cover with brittle insides is still a brittle book! Check for squareness of trim, sharpness of edges and corners, amount of gloss, color fading, centering and proper placement of staples and centering of cover art. Look for defects such as subscription creases, other creases, tears, corners missing, chips, color flakes, folds, holes, whiteness, soiling, rubbing, writing, color touch-up, paper replacement, tape, retrimming or anything else that would detract from the grade.

GRADING

The grading of a comic book is done by simply looking at the book and describing its condition, which may range from absolutely perfect newsstand condition (MINT) to extremely worn, dirty, and torn (POOR).

Note on understanding terminologies and descriptions: A flaw that is permitted in a higher grade is also permitted in all lower grades, even though the flaw may not be mentioned again in lower grade descriptions. A flaw that is not permitted in a higher grade, but is not noted as being not permitted in the next lower grade, is permitted in that grade and all lower grades. For example, if VF cannot have yellowish pages, but FN does not exclude yellowish pages as a defect, then yellowish pages are allowed in that grade and all lower grades below it. When a book is described as simply FVF condition, you can expect a book that does not fall abnormally outside of the FVF grade description. When a book is graded as FVF and described as having a 1" spine split, this means that there is a defect which is not allowed in the
FVF grade that is present in this copy, otherwise the appearance is a standard FVF copy.
Numerous variables (as outlined above) influence the evaluation of a comic's condition and all must be considered in the final evaluation. As grading is the most subjective aspect of determining a comic's value, it is very important that the grader must be careful and not allow wishful thinking to influence what the eyes see. It is also very important to realize that older comics in MINT condition are extremely scarce and are rarely advertised for sale; most of the higher grade comics advertised range from VERY FINE to NEAR MINT. To the novice grading will appear difficult at first but, as experience is gained accuracy will improve. Whenever in doubt, consult with a reputable dealer or experienced collector in your area. The following grading guide is given to aid the collector.

WARNING ABOUT RESTORATION:

Many rare and expensive books are being restored by professionals. These books are not actually higher grades, but are altered lower grade books. It has been brought to our attention that some dealers have been selling these books to unsuspecting collectors/investors - without telling them of the restoration. In some cases these restored books are being priced the same as unrestored books. **Very Important:** Use the guidelines above to examine books very closely for repairing or restoration before purchase. The more expensive the book, the greater the likelihood of restoration. Major things to look for are: bleaching, whittening, trimming, interior spine and tear reinforcement, gluing, restapling, missing pieces replaced, wrinkles pressed out of covers, recoloring and reglossing covers. Dealers should state that a book has been restored and not expect to get as much as a book unrestored in that condition would bring. Any kind of repair or restoration is considered a defect from the original condition of the book.

GRADING DEFINITIONS

The hardest part of evaluating a comic is being honest and objective with yourself, and knowing what characteristics to look for in making your assessment.

VERY IMPORTANT: A book must be graded in its entirety, considering all defects, fairly and honestly. Do not grade just the cover alone. A book in any of the grades listed must be in **ORIGINAL UNRESTORED** condition. **Restored books** must be described as such. The value of an extensively restored book may improve only slightly from its original unrestored state. After examining these characteristics a comic may be assigned to one of the following grades:

Note: Tiny-1/16" or less; Small-1/8" or less; Minor-1/4" or less; Light-1/2" or less. **Eye-appeal:** The final grade given any book is determined by how appealing the book appears to the eye. Therefore, defects to the back cover affect the grade less than the same defects to the front cover. A final grade is the sum of all positive and negative aspects of a book. Since eye-appeal is subjective, grading is an art and not a science. Defects that disturb one collector may not be a factor to another. Use these grading guidelines as a general consensus of most knowledgable collectors and dealers.

MINT (M): Absolutely perfect in every way, regardless of age. No printing defects are allowed. The cover has full original gloss, is crisp, cut square with sharp corners and shows no imperfections of any sort. Minute color fading is allowed. The cover and all pages are creamy white and fresh; the spine is tight, flat, and clean with no stress lines; not even the slightest blemish can be detected around staples, along spine and edges or at corners. Arrival dates pencilled on the cover are usually acceptable so long as they are very small. When the surface of the front and back covers is held to the light, not the slightest wear, indentations, wrinkles or defects of any kind can be observed. As comics must be truly perfect to be in this grade, they are obviously extremely scarce and seldom are offered for sale. Books prior to 1970 in this grade can and usually do bring above guide prices.

NEAR MINT (NM): Nearly perfect. Upon close inspection, one or possibly two very tiny imperfections can be found. Often these imperfections are noticed only when holding the surface of the front and back covers under bright light. Possibly a tiny (1/16th inch) color flake missing at a staple, corner or edge. Or, a tiny (1/16th inch) spine tear is permitted if no other defects are observed. No crease of any kind. Near perfect cover gloss retained. Not more than three very tiny stress lines along the spine maybe present. Pages and covers should be creamy to white, not yellow or brown. No color touch-up, repair or restoration of any kind is allowed in this grade. No printing defects are allowed. This grade is also very rare in books prior to 1970.

VERY FINE-NEAR MINT (VFNM): Beautiful, glossy and excellent in every way with only minor imperfections that keep it out of the higher grades. One tiny corner crease of less than 1/8th inch length is allowed. Up to 6 tiny (1/16th inch) stress lines along the spine is acceptable if the eye appeal of the book is not seriously affected. Pages should be creamy at least. A common defect in this grade is a tiny spine tear at the upper or lower spine not greater than 1/16th inch in length. One or no more than two tiny tears (1/16th inch) are permitted in this grade. An extremely tiny tear repair, microscopic dot color touch-up, unobtrusive arrival date erasure or other similar invisible alterations, on an otherwise perfect copy, is permitted in this grade.

VERY FINE (VF): An excellent copy with outstanding eye-appeal. Sharp, bright, clean and glossy with supple pages. Slight wear beginning to show; possibly 5 or 6 tiny wrinkles or stress lines at staples or along spine where cover has been opened a few times; still clean and flat with 80 per cent of cover gloss retained. Pages and covers can be yellowish/tarnish (at the least) but not brown and will usually be creamy to white. 4 or 5 tiny color flakes are acceptable. One 1/4 inch corner crease on an otherwise exceptional copy is permitted. Very minor restoration or repair is not allowed in this grade unless it is specifically noted and described. Comics in this grade are normally the highest grade offered for sale and often books graded higher are misgraded VFs.

FINE-VERY FINE (FVF): Nearly Very Fine. A sharp, clean copy but without the crispness associated with Very Fine. Pages can be slightly tannish but not brown or brittle. Up to 8 tiny stress lines along the spine or covers can be expected. Several tiny color flakes are permitted. No subscription creases or spine roll allowed. A minor printing defect is allowed. Corners may be very slightly rounded. Exceptional cover gloss remains (60 per cent or more).

FINE (FN): An exceptional, above-average copy that shows minor wear, but still relatively flat, clean and glossy with no subscription crease, writing on cover (except an arrival date), brown margins or tape repairs.
Typical defects include: Light spine wear, minor surface wear, a light crease (1/4 inch in length), minor yellowing/tanning to interior pages. Still a bright

GRADING COMIC BOOKS - THE CRITICAL FACTOR

copy with 50 per cent cover gloss. A few stress lines around staples and along spine to be expected, but not more than 1/8th inch in length. One small edge chip or several tiny chips are allowed. One minor tear is allowed when on an otherwise FVF copy. Very minor spine roll allowed on an otherwise clean and uncreased copy.

VERY GOOD (VG): The average used comic book most commonly found. Significant wear is obvious with original printing lustre and gloss almost gone; some discoloration or fading, but not soiled. One or two minor markings on covers is permitted as is a minor spine roll. Lightly creased along spine or extremities; a subscription crease is allowed. Cover could have a minor tear or crease where a corner was folded under or a loose centerfold. A minor chip or piece missing is allowed when noted. No chunks missing. Pages and inside covers may be brown but not brittle, but would usually be yellowish to creamy. One small tape repair permitted. Still enough eye-appeal to be collectable.

GOOD-VERY GOOD (GVG): A worn copy without the extreme wear associated with the lower grades. Several significant defects such as tape repairs, minor tears or long creases may be present.

GOOD (G): A heavily worn copy but complete. Creased, scuffed, not glossy and soiled. Although a copy in this grade could have white pages and covers, the accumulation of defects such as creases, tears or chips and general wear prevent the book from a higher classification.

FAIR (F): Very heavily read and soiled, but still complete. Damaged beyond collectibility for most collectors, bringing 30-50 per cent of the Good price.

POOR (P): Damaged; heavily weathered; soiled; or otherwise unsuited for collection purposes. Possibly incomplete or coverless; pages may be missing, bringing 15 to 25 per cent of the Good price.

COVERLESS (C): Coverless comics are usually hard to sell and in many cases are worthless.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Exceptional cases in all grades exist. The following are some exceptions for the amateur to consider:

1. Comics in all grades with fresh extra white pages are more desirable. Thus, a VG copy with white pages is worth more than the same copy with browning pages.
2. A high grade comic with a major, unusual defect should be down graded two or more grades. An example would be a NM comic which has a half inch spine split or a VF comic with brownish pages or covers.
3. Corner creases are the most commonly disputed defects. A long corner crease on a high grade book should lower the grade at least two steps.
4. A comic which appears NM or M but has brittle or flaking pages should be dropped six or more steps. A VF or better comic with brown covers or pages should be dropped at least one or more steps.
5. Other exceptional defects such as books with panels missing, coupons cut, torn or taped covers and pages, brown or brittle pages, restapled, retrimmed, taped spines, pages or covers, water-marked, printing defects, rusted staples, stained, holed, or other imperfections should be taken into consideration by the grader and the grade should be lowered several steps according to the severity of the defect.
6. In no case is a repaired or restored book ever worth the same as a book in the same condition which has no repair or restoration.

TERMINOLOGY

Many of the following terms and abbreviations are used in the comic book market and are explained here:

a-Story art; **a(i)**-Story art inks; **a(p)**-Story art pencils; **a(r)**-Story art reprint.
Annual-A book that is published yearly.
Arrival date-Markings on a comic book cover (usually in pencil) made by either the newstand dealer or the distributor. These markings denote the date the book was placed on the newstand. Usually the arrival date is one or two months prior to the cover date.
B & W-Black and white art.
Bi-monthly-Published every two months.
Bi-weekly-Published every two weeks.
Brittleness-The final stage of paper deterioration.
c-Cover art; **c(i)**-Cover inks; **c(p)**-Cover pencils; **c(r)**-Cover reprint.
Cameo-When a character appears briefly in one or two panels.
CCA-Comics Code Authority.
Centerfold-The two folded pages in the center of a comic at the terminal end of the staples.
Colorist-Artist that applies color to the black and white pen and ink art.
Comic book repair-When a tear, loose staple or centerfold has been mended without changing or adding to the original finish of the book. Repair may involve tape, glue or nylon gossamer and is easily detected. It is considered a defect.
Comic book restoration-Any attempt, whether professional or amateur, to enhance the appearance of a comic book. These procedures may include any or all of the following techniques: Recoloring, adding missing paper, stain, ink, dirt, tape removal, whitening, pressing out wrinkles, staple replacement, trimming, re-glossing, etc. Note: Unprofessional work can lower the value of a book. In all cases, a restored book can never be worth the same as an unrestored book in the same condition.
Comics Code Authority-In 1954 the major publishers joined together and formed a committee who set up guide lines for acceptable comic contents. It was their task to approve the contents of comics before publication.
Con-A Convention or public gathering of fans.
Debut-The first time that a character appears anywhere.
Fanzine-An amateur fan publication.
First app.-Same as debut.
G. A.-Golden Age.
Golden Age (G. A.)-The period beginning with Action #1 (June, 1938) and ending with World War II in 1945.
Headlight-Protruding breasts.
i-Art inks.
Intro-Same as debut.
JLA-Justice League of America.
JLI-Justice League International.
JSA-Justice Society of America.
Logo-The title of a strip or comic book as it appears on the cover or title page.
LSH-Legion of Super-Heroes.
Marvel chipping-A defect that occurred during the trimming process of 1950s & 1960s Marvels which produced a ragged edge around the comic cover. Usually takes the form of a tiny chip or chips along the right-hand edge of the cover.
nd-No date.
nn-No number.
One-shot-When only one issue is published of a title, or when a series is published where each issue is a different title (i.e. Four Color).
Origin- The story which details the coming into existence or use of a Super Hero, or the Super Hero's powers.
Over guide-When a comic book is priced at a value over guide list.
p-Art pencils.
Post-Silver Age-Comic books published from 1969 to present.
Pre-Code-Comic books published before the CCA seal.
Pre-Golden Age-Comic books published prior to Action #1 (June, 1938).
Pre-Silver Age-Comic books published between 1950 and Showcase #4 (1956).
R or r- Reprint.
S.A. - Silver Age.
Silver Age- Officially begins with Showcase #4 in 1956 and ends in 1969.

Due to the large number of letters received we are unable to include them all. Many fine and informative letters had to be left out - for this I apologize - JW.

Dear Mr. Warren:
I am writing this letter to inform Mike Cross of Milford, IL about Jim Lee and Alpha Flight. Mike pointed out in Update #15 that AF #53 was a Wolverine appearance as well as being pencilled by Jim Lee. But did he also know that Jim pencilled issues 51, 55-62, and 64 of AF as well?

Gracias,

Misha Bodner
Santa Barbara, CA

Dear Mr. Warren:

Back in the October Update you expressed a wish that someone supply you with a list of all those obscure Marvel and DC comics which are not listed in the Update. The difficult I do immediately, the impossible takes a little longer. This took a little longer, and if you have already been supplied with that list I'm going to look like a right noddy.

Well, for better or worse, there is a list enclosed: 250+ titles culled from the 449 pages of the 1990 Guide. It should contain every DC/ Marvel title from 1960 (a convenient cut-off point) to date, I hope. Happy reading!

Yours faithfully,

David J. Newton
Auckland, NEW ZEALAND

P.S. I was interested in Eric Winston's thoughts about the Silver Age cut-off date.

Perhaps as the periods 1938-42 and 1956-61 are to the Gold and Silver ages of comics books, we could view the time 1968-71 as the "Bronze Age." — O'Neil/Adams, "Relevancy", Kirby leaving Marvel, Kirby's "4th World" series debuts, Mort Weisinger retires from editing the Superman titles, that price increases, and a new generation of writers and artists beginning to make their mark at the comic companies, among other things.

Any thoughts on the matter?

Sounds reasonable to me - JW

Dear Mr. Warren:

Being a long time collector, I thoroughly enjoy your Price Guide Update for both its helpfulness in keeping abreast of what's hot and what's not, and for its letters from both collectors like myself and comic shop owners. I personally buy comics to read and collect, with the emphasis on READ! Reading the new FF or Hulk, my two favorites, is one of lifes enjoyments as far as I'm concerned. In fact, when there is a storyline that continues over more than one issue, as in FF #'s 347-349, I wait till I have all three issues before reading them. This is extremely helpful in remembering what went on in an earlier issue, especially if there is a really long storyline, like in the X-Tinction Agenda.

I think there are too many young collectors today who are being caught up in the Silver Age price boom. They see outrageous prices (yes, $10,000 for AF #15 is outrageous) for these early and rare high grade books, and can't wait for their books to go through the roof also. So they snatched up 10-15 copies of Spider-Man #1, never stopping to think that there were over two million copies printed. Two million copies! Anyone who pays over cover price for this book is crazy. All you young collectors, take my word for it. It's not worth the investment. Let Batman #'s 427-429 stand in evidence. These issues are a prime example of how people get caught up in hype. There was no shortage of these issues. None! The reason people couldn't find any on the shelves were #1) everybody was buying multiple copies and #2) greedy comic shop owners were only putting a limited supply out for sale. They created the shortage, and as with anything else, if people think there is a shortage of something they want one for themselves. Regardless of the price. I saw a man pay $75 for Batman #428 not too long after it hit the shelves. He will be lucky if he can sell it back to the same dealer today for $10. And I'm sure he's not the only one.

I guess what I'm trying to say is be careful what you pay a lot of money for. Take the time to investigate whether or not what you are about to lay down a lot of money for is indeed worth it. And remember that the joy of this hobby is in the hobby itself. Enjoy your comics in the way they were intended to be enjoyed. Read them! Over and over again if you like, but remember that they are there to read, not to buy and stock in a plastic bag for 50 years. To this day I still re-read comics. Don't get me wrong, I do store my comics in bags and boxes. But not because they're going to make me rich someday, but so I can go back to them when I feel like and read them again. And, believe me, you cannot damage a comic book by reading it.

Well, thanks for allowing me to express my opinion.

Sincerely,
Anthony Pilla
Clementon, NJ

Thanks for your comments, I agree that collectors should emphasize the enjoyment of the hobby over the potential (or phantom) profits.

Dear Mr. Warren:

Do you remember when Ford released the Mustang in the early 60's, that Chevy immediately countered with the Camaro? The same thing happened between DC and Marvel, specifically between the Punisher and the Vigilante. Think about it. Vigilante was an attorney, Punisher was a detective. Both were part of a plan to put away big time organized crime leaders. Both of the crime leaders ordered the mean killed, but accidentally killed their families instead. Both of them men went into hiding for a long time. While they were gone, both men went through extensive training. When they came back, both vowed to fight crime. They both gave the same basic punishment for crimes and both know how to use weapons effectively. The only real difference between the two is that the Vigilante wears a mask, uses more advanced weapons, and lives a double life as Adrien Allen Chase. Punisher never went back to being Frank Castle and uses basic weapons. Are these guys twins, or what? Why doesn't Marvel buy the rights to Vigilante and team the two up? The two are so much alike that if they were ever put together, it would probably be the most lethal combo ever, maybe even more powerful than Batman and Robin. The only problem is that DC killed Vig by having him commit suicide. It wouldn't be too hard to bring him back. I mean, if Captain America and Nick Fury can have 12 lives, why can't Vig? Please print this letter in your price guide. I would like to hear what you have to say about this subject.

Sincerely,

Ted Stojkovski
Syracuse, NY

P.S. I love the cover on the last price guide. Keep up the great art.

Thanks for writing.

Dear Mr. Warren:

In reference to Barry DeGregorio of Niagara Falls, NY, the Electra "Assassin" graphic hard cover signed and numbered novel does exist. I am the proud owner of one. It is published by Graphitte Designs, 1140 North Kraemer Boulevard, Unit B, Anaheim, CA 92806-1919 (ISBN #0-936211-14-8). It is signed by Bill Sienkiewicz and is limited to a 2,000 print run. I bought it at the One Shop, 120-A East University Drive, Tempe, AZ 85281 (Phone 602/967-3551).

My best,

Matt Smith
Tempe, AZ

Dear Mr. Warren:

First, I would like to thank you for publishing my recent letter in Update 16. My name is TONY STARKS, not Terry, however. *(Oops, sorry about that)*

I am writing in response to one of Keith Contarino's comments in Update 16. To summarize, Keith feels that quality wise, comics from the 1970's are pretty much junk. While I would agree that OVERALL, the comics from the 60's were of higher quality than the 70's, I believe the difference to be fairly small. In fact, some real gems were published in the 70's.

The following is a list I quickly put together — I have doubtless

left off some deserving books. At the risk of sounding obvious, most of these books are also excellent investment.

AS GOOD AS ANYTHING DONE IN THE SILVER AGE

1) Conan 1-24
2) Green Lantern 76-89
3) Swamp Thing 1-10
4) X-Men 94-143 (Maybe you're tired of mutants now, but these are great art and stories)
5) Amazing Spider-Man 129
6) Incredible Hulk 181
7) Many "art" books - Avengers 93-100, Starline Captain Marvels, Rodgers' Batmans come immediately to mind

COMPARABLE TO MAJORITY OF SILVER AGE MATERIAL

1) Marvel Team-Up (All) A nice "showcase" book
2) Defenders 1-50 - An unlikely team. #10 has great Thor vs Hulk story
3) Kirby 4th World DCs - Any are decent. I enjoyed Demon and Mr. Miracle most
4) Luke Cage, Hero for Hire - Decent stories, really! First black superhero with own book??
5) Shadow (Kaluta issues)
6) Dr. Strange 1-5+ - Nice art and stories
7) Iron Fist 1-15+ - Arguably, Byrne's best work
8) Howard The Duck - Really. Good art and stories. Inspired a major motion picture and syndicated newspaper strip
9) E-Man (Charlton) - Refreshingly different

A number of books come to mind that, while not exceptional, were not trash either. They are currently so cheap, they are bound to make good long-term investments.

1) Most superhero #1's from the 70's by Marvel and DC. Look what Ghost Rider has done. Look for characters/titles that are still around and/or likely to get another book and/or had long runs.
2) King Size books, like DC's 100 page Spectaculars or Dollar comics. Many of these books reprint great GA and SA stories, plus new material.
3) Most of the major titles spanning both decades had decent quality in the 70's - Superman, Batman, Spider-Man, FF, etc.

One final thought. Many of the comics from the 1970's cost no more as back issues than the cover price of new comics. If you enjoy reading and owning them, they represent a good investment!

Sincerely,
Tony Stavish
Newburgh, IN

Dear Jon:

I hope you will allow me the opportunity to defend myself and other advisors from the potshots taken by Rob Griffin in OPU #16.

FIRST - I am literally deluged with calls and letters following each Update thanking me for the very soapboxing you and Rob find so distasteful. To hit price after price may be informative—but also pretty boring. I feel our opinions are at least as valuable as listing prices.

SECOND - Sotheby's just received over $400,000 for a Honus Wagner baseball card, a full 4X higher than any previous price. They also got an unbelievable $49,000 for a 1952 Mantle that they expected to go no higher than $15,000. Christie's recently had a movie poster auction, and the prices received were beyond anyone's wildest expectations. Nothing is "recession-proof," but top quality collectibles like key or high grade Silver and Golden Age comics are as close as one can get. They have historically done well in poor economic times and very well in good times. With CDs and Treasuries paying pathetic rates, smart investors are putting money into top quality collectibles of all kinds.

THIRD - I have never gotten the impression "everything is selling at the same time that nothing is selling." The Market Reports merely reflect, individually, what a particular advisor finds true for his/her area. If I report I can't sell Avengers #57 in NM, for example, for more than 80% Update, it is still possible John Chruscinski is selling them like hotcakes at $50. Conversely, John may not be able to give away Robin #1's; but Greg Buls may be selling them all day long at $3. Only an idiot would not take regional supply/demand into account. I hope none of the advisors are telling customers to buy every copy they can get their hands on of ANY new product. Some new product may be temporarily be in short supply (see Batman #428), but, when speculators start to dump their copies, the price will drop dramatically (see Batman #428), as no new product is truly scarce (see Batman #428). You have to understand the myopic "I have to have it now" mentality rampant among collectors of new product to understand why there are such tremendous price escalations on all new "hot" books. While I can't justify gouging collectors of such material, and, consequently, no longer carry much of it, I certainly don't blame anyone other than the collectors/investors themselves for stupidly paying prices like $10 for a Robin #1 or an Adventures Of Superman #50. I do feel it is bad for our industry to have such large amounts of money poured into poor investments like the aforementioned; and, while I wish dealers would sell all new product at cover for a few months, it's entirely their business if they decide to sell these books for whatever someone is willing to pay—no matter how crazy.

You would think people would have learned from Howard The Duck #1 and the Independent fiasco a few years ago (all those Fish Police #1's at $20 and Elfland #1's at $10 were really great investments!!). The buying going on now of Marvel and DC hot books far exceeds what was spent on Independents five years ago. What is going to happen a few years from now when investors want to sell this stuff? No dealer will buy back any of it at anything approaching what they sold it for (see Batman #428). In the entire back-issue industry going to suffer because of this mass stupidity? I'm worried that so much money is going to be lost on this that even the Silver Age and Golden Age market might be damaged. Conversely, if the same amount of dollars spent were being put into good investment vehicles like Golden and Silver Age material, the market would continue to flourish. Someone needs to stand up and say, "Hey, stop buying this stuff unless you like it. These books are TERRIBLE investments, and you're wasting your money." Guess I just did!

FOURTH — You are both off base in regard to your comments about "I could sell X comic if I could find it." Taken in the proper context, that statement is neither worthless nor embarrassing. For example, if I have a stack of want lists with Showcase #55 on them and these clients are willing to pay 2-4X OPU for the book in NM, that is useful and informative. Moreover, to withhold such information would make me guilty of what I am accused of all the time by other dealers — hoarding books on which I know prices are going to escalate. It seems to me that with all this conflict of interest hubbub, we should feel obligated to disseminate information of this kind. On a less specific note, statements like "I could sell more high grade Timely's or early FF's above fine if I could find them" also should be taken as useful information. The reason we are advisors to you is because you feel we are experts in at least some aspects of the comics industry. If a major buyer high grade Timely's are extremely sought after, instead of belittling that statement you should take it to heart. If you feel we should keep information like this to ourselves, I will—but I think it's wrong.

FIFTH — Rob, why do you think one sale is often seen as a trend? On the contrary, one sale is just that — one sale. However, if I — AND Greg Buls, AND Sparkle City AND Sean Linkenback—all report we're selling high grade DC's at multiples of Update, there's a trend. If I have five or 10 good clients paying 3.0X OPU for certain runs or books, THAT'S a trend! You shouldn't hold Jon or his advisors responsible for your misinterpretation of Market Reports.

SIXTH — Jon, I agree we shouldn't use the Reports as advertising. If I make a statement like, "I have just purchased a stunning Marvel collection," you should edit it. If say I have just SOLD that " collection, it's useful information for everyone. I disagree with you on another point. You should be asking our opinions as advisors, not ignoring them. Admittedly, these opinions should be based on FACT or used to explain a FACT or FACTS. As an example, Robin #1 sold thousands of copies at $5 or more. That's a FACT. My OPINION as an advisor and a long-time comic collector/dealer/investor is that Robin #1 is a terrible investment at $5 or $10. I feel (as you do) that I know a little bit about this business, and my opinion should have some value based on my level of expertise. (This is true, or should be, of all your advisors.) My opinions on what material is a good investment vehicle should be valuable. My opinion on what is good artwork is probably valueless. Just because Ditko did not draw ASM #40 does not mean the book is a bad investment. Quite the contrary. For me to make a statement along the lines of "Spidey #40 is a lousy comic and should not be bought because Steve Ditko didn't draw it" would be inappropriate. I don't collect non-Ditko Spider-Man, but that's entirely aesthetic and has nothing to do with the investment potential.

Keith Contarino

Dear Mr. Warren:

As always, I would like to begin by praising you for the sound advice you give in these updates. It is always a service to me as well as to other, I'm sure. I have two points that I would like to find answers to and feel you could share your insight.

1) A Silver Age book that I feel has been undervalued for quite some time is Mystery In Space #87. This book stands as Hawkman's first appearance in that title; Murphy Anderson's first artwork on Hawkman (cover and story); and was on the stands in November of 1963 while Hawkman #1 would not appear until May 1964. Could this book have been a tryout for Anderson? Should it guide at NM for $22 while Hawkman #1 guides at $175? I would think this book is important if not highly significant

for the reasons I stated above and I would like your opinion on the issue.

2) Iron Fist #14 definitely needs to break loose. With tension mounting for his summer appearance in Wolverine, who's to say this is not another Hulk 181 or Spidey 1299? Dealers are already pricing this book at double and triple guide. Care to comment?

Thank you very much, and I will look forward to future Updates!

Chuck A. Miller
Lexington, SC

Mr. Warren:

Update 16 lists Captain Marvel 17 as the first new costume issue. The new Cap, however, is given substantial exposure in the last three pages of Captain Marvel 16.

How can a second print of McFarlane Spider-Man 1 be valued higher than a first print green newsstand bagged copy (sealed)?

Thank you for sharing with me your opinions concerning the Silver Age. A few more words and I'll be done on the subject.

If, in fact, the Silver Age came to an end in or before the spring of 1968, then the prospect of a new beginning would be more promising. But it did not. It struggled on for another year and a half before dying in the arms of the last twelve cent comic. If the new beginning is to be genuine, then, from the vantage of this armchair, the chronology for the termination of the Silver Age needs to be revised.

The appearance of these six Big Premiere Issues was indeed a major event. But the characters, while on the sidelines, were around for years. To suddenly give them their own mags, as exciting as it was, hardly seems the creative spark necessary to generate a new comic age. Better to remember it as one of the highlights of the Silver Age to rank alongside first appearances of Fantastic Four, Spiderman, and Inferior Five.

Steve Perram
Bellingham, WA

Dear Jon:

First of all, I'd like to congratulate you on a great publication. The Overstreet Price Updates are consistently of high caliber and always contain volumes of pertinent information.

I truly wish that you publication would be used by more dealers. It seems to me that in recent years dealers have gone price-crazy. I think that this is in part a result of a certain other so-called price guide out there, which is published monthly. It disgusts me to buy it, but I have to every month since it seems every store I go to these days abides by it. Aside from publishing inflated prices (which, unfortunately, more and more people are going by these days), it is riddled with misprints and unforgivable grammar mistakes. Your Guide is filled with new information and the dealer reports have taught me much. It is orderly, and discusses more than simply what a two-week old $15 issue is going to double in another week. My only wish is that the Update be published more often.

So, in closing, keep up the excellent work. I call on all members of the industry, from collectors to dealers, to abide by the yearly Overstreet Guide and the Updates — let's stop this price lunacy and get some responsibility back into the collecting hobby.

David D. Muska
Broad Brook, CT

Thanks - the way to stop it is to stop paying the ridiculous prices and to expect your local dealer to buy from the same price guide he sells from.

Dear Jon:

It's been a while since I've written to you (my last letter was published in your Bulletin #2, 1986). I have enjoyed the yearly Master Guides and more recently, Price Updates since I started collecting back in 1972 (at age 13). I have a couple of questions that perhaps you can answer.

Firstly, I have an Avengers #4 that has "9d" on the cover where 12 cents should be. Also, there is no month (MAR) under the #4 in the issue number box. Everything else is just like the regular issue. this issue has been in my collection for about 15 years and doesn't look to be a reprint. All the house ads are the same, etc. what can you tell me about this? What is its value? *(This is a British copy, about 1/3rd the value of a US edition)*

Secondly, I keep a database of all my books on computer. Since I have about 2,000 - 3,000 issues, a computer makes tracking and updating much easier than my old binder method. What is really nice is when updating values, I only have to look for the plus (+) or minus (-) signs in your Updates. My question is, when the Annual Master Guide is released next week, do I have to compare each issue since it has no plus or minus? *(Yes)*

What about waiting for the next Update? Are these plus and minus reflecting the last Update or Master Guide? If your Update would list a plus or minus based on the last Update, this would solve my problem. I just wouldn't use the Master Guide to update my database. If, however, your June Update's plus/minus is based on the Master Guide, then I will have to check every issue in my collection with the Annual. *(The June Update is the supplement for the April big guide)*

Before I close, let me say how happy I am seeing more West Coast advisors in the recent Updates. We have some very informed and friendly dealers here in the Bay Area (Joe Field from Flying Colors, Lee from Lee's Comics, the staff of Comic & Comix, and The California Comic Book Co. - just to name a few).

Sincerely,
Michael Rivera
Clayton, CA

Dear Mr. Warren:

First, I am a fairly new collector in the comic field after years of sport card collecting. The Overstreet Update (no. 16) is a very well done guide. The Update provides a tremendous amount of information for the collector. However, I would like to clarify my understanding of an origin of a character.

Page six in the Update states the definition of an origin. This definition, after debate with a fellow collector, leads to my question. The Guide refers to issue 289 of Amazing Spiderman as the origin of the Hobgoblin. I fully understand how this is considered an origin issue. My question is with issue 85 of Spectacular Spiderman. My friend believes this should be an origin issue because it is explained in the issue exactly how the Hobgoblin obtains his powers. After reading the issue, I also believe this issue fits the definition on page six in Update 16. The Spectacular issue also precedes the Amazing issue by a few years. The Guide also does not list Spectacular Spiderman 85 as a Hobgoblin appearance, even though the Hobgoblin is also on the cover. I have noticed many other issues in other Spiderman books listed as Hobgoblin appearances. We would appreciate your time and effort with helping to clarify this situation over an origin.

Best regards,
David McGowan
Duluth, GA

Newa note - Spec. Spider-Man #85 is the first true origin of Hobgoblin.

Dear Mr. Warren:

Being the manager of distribution at a comics outlet, I feel I have some information that may prove useful for your next Update.

Firstly, I would like to clear up the confusion behind the latest Elektra work by Miller, a confusion that was clearly born out of Mr. Warren D. Moore's letter in Update #16. The so-called "Art of Love" ("Act of Love", actually) that Mr. Moore referred to does not exist. Marvel misled retailers and comics buyers by printing sell-sheets for Elektra Lives Again with the "Act of Love" title instead of the correct one. (In case anyone is interested, Graphitti Designs has released 2,500 signed and numbered copies of Elektra Lives Again.)

Secondly, there's an unusual story behind Sandman #19 that I'm sure readers would be interested in. When DC first printed this issue, they quickly discovered that a bad batch had been shipped out. These issues have pages 18 and 19 transposed. Distributors were told to recall the misprints in order to exchange them for the corrected version. However, many stores put the bad copies on the stands before the recall went out. The result was that a small number of misprints fell into the hands of Sandman collectors. But seeing as many Sandman buyers are fiercely devoted fans and intend to take their collections with them to the grave, no misprints have been put up for sale by anyone (not around here, at any rate). In short, I have no idea what the asking price for the misprint would be. Any information about this book would be greatly appreciated.

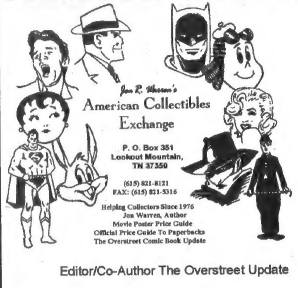
With the overwhelmingly large volume of comics out there, you must have a hard time gathering information. I hope that I have been of some assistance to you and your ever-diligent staff.

Sincerely yours,

Richard K. Hunter
Toronto, Ontario
CANADA

Thanks Richard.

MONTHLY MAIL-PHONE CATALOG
COMIC BOOK & COLLECTIBLES AUCTIONS



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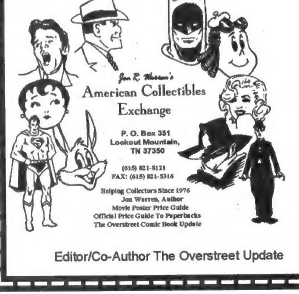

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SPECIAL REPORT - AN AMERICAN DEALER IN LONDON

by Mark Derrick

After the Persian Gulf War, the airlines unveiled some incredible bargain fares to Europe to stimulate tourism. Since my wife and I had always wanted to visit England, we decided to go in early May. I contacted Paul Sassienie at Stateside Comics near London. Paul told me that a comic show would be held on the Sunday after our arrival, and that he could arrange some table space for me. I decided to give the show a try and combine business with pleasure. What follows are some details of the experience.

We took about 350 comics among our luggage. I took a few of different genres since I wanted to see how a variety of books would sell. I packed six to eight westerns, 10-15 TV and movie comics, a few Classics Comics, some Star Trek comics, about 20 major independents such as early Cerebus and Dark Horse titles, and about 10 Star Trek magazines. The remaining comics I packed were super hero Marvels and DCs about evenly divided between various late 10 cent and 12 cent titles and more recent hot titles.

The show, held on Sunday, May, 5th occurred in a small civic center near several subway and bus stations. I would guess that there were about 80 tables. It didn't officially open until about noon and was over by 5 p.m.

There were quite a few differences from American shows. The first thing I noticed was the intensity of the crowd. It seemed that within minutes of opening there were at least 500 collectors in the room. But by about 3:30 p.m. the crowds had dropped to almost nothing. Also, English collectors are very polite and appear to be very businesslike. They seem to know exactly what they want and will look through each dealer's stock then move on to the next one. This was a good thing since it was two to three people deep at the tables most of the afternoon. The English fans also had virtually no interest in Golden Age comics. I had brought a Detective #45 and there was no serious interest in it or other older comics. On the other hand, interest in Silver Age was very high, particularly in higher grades. There were also price differences. For instance, Hulk #340 sold in the neighborhood of five pounds (about $8), far less than its value here. Perhaps not surprisingly, Alan Moore Swamp Things sold over Guide. There was a great deal of interest in Star Trek, too. The Star Trek magazines were among the first items we sold. The local fans receive Star Trek:TNG on the BBC but it, like several other American TV shows, seems to be months behind our broadcast schedule. This might explain why TV comics sold well at the show - even older ones like the Invaders and Bonanza. Another observation I made was that no collectors tried to sell or trade comics to the dealers at the show. It could have been coincidence, but it seems unlikely considering the high number of attendees. Finally, I found that some dealers had foreign language comics. In particular, I noted French comics including French issues of the Watchmen maxi-series.

After the show, I traded my remaining comics to a local dealer for various items including books and T-shirts not sold in this country. We had a few days to sightsee in the country before coming home.

So, how did we do? Well, let me just say that we figure our vacation was almost free.

We would like to give special thanks to our friends at Stateside Comics and at Forbidden Planet. We really enjoyed our vacation and hope to visit again sometime.

FIRST 25+1 SILVER AGE DC BOOKS WITH GOLDEN AGE CHARACTERS

by Dr. J. Keith Contarino

1. Brave & Bold #30 — July 1960. Letters page has list of original members JSA from All-Star #3 and last group from All-Star #57.
2. Flash #123 — September 1961. First actual reappearance of a Golden Age character, Flash.
3. Showcase #34 — October 1961. First picture of original JSA from cover of All-Star #3. Detailed origin of G.A. Atom.
4. Flash #129 — June 1962. Second G.A. Flash. First appearance of JSA in a panel in S.A. story. JSA members seen while G.A. Flash is thinking about them — Atom, Hawkman, G.L., Black Canary, Dr. Midnite.
5. Flash #137 — June 1963. Third G.A. Flash. First Vandall Savage. Here they come! First actual reappearance JSA, Atom, G.L., Hawkman, Dr. Midnite, Wonder Woman, no Black Canary, First Johnny Thunder who is not in #129.
6. Justice League #21 — August 1963. Fourth G.A. Flash. First meeting of JSA and JLA. First Hourman, Black Canary, Dr. Fate. Where'd Wonder Woman go? Atom, G.L., Hawkman, Dr. Midnite.
7. JLA #22 — September 1963. Continuation of #21.
8. JLA #29 — August 1964. First reappearance of Starman. Rest of JSA also — Atom, Flash, G.L., Dr. Fate, Dr. Midnite, Hawkman, Black Canary.
9. JLA #30 — September 1964. Continuation of #29.
10. Flash #151 — March 1965. Overlooked in all Guides! G.A. Flash appearance.
11. Showcase #55 — April 1965. First S.A. book totally devoted to G.A. characters. Origins Dr. Fate and Hourman in text. First Solomon Grundy. Sixth appearance G.A. Green Lantern.
12. Showcase #56 — June 1965. First Psycho Pirate. Continuation of #55.
13. JLA #37 — August 1965. First Mr. Terrific. Rest of JSA. Atom, Flash, G.L., Hawkman, Dr. Fate.
14. JLA #38 — September 1965. Continuation of #37.
15. Brave & Bold #61 — September 1965. First appearance of the Mist. Origin of Starman and Black Canary in text. Reprints covers Adventure #61 and Flash #92. Best S.A. cover of G.A. characters with possible exception of Showcase #60.
16. Brave & Bold # 62 — October 1965. First Wildcat. Continuation of #61.
17. Green Lantern #40 — October 1965. First Crisis. Origin of Guardians, G.A. G.L.
18. Showcase #60 — February 1966. Origin and First Appearance of Spectre in the Silver Age. "The Most Important Comic Book Event in 20 Years."
19. Showcase #61 — April 1966. Continuation of #60.
20. Green Lantern #45 — June 1966. G.A. G.L.
21. JLA #46 — August 1966. First Sandman! Rest of JSA — Black Canary, Spectre, Dr. Fate, Wildcat, Dr. Midnite.
22. JLA #47 — September 1966. Continuation of #46.
23. Showcase #64 — October 1966. Spectre.
24. Atom #29 — March 1967. First Cross-over G.A. Atom into S.A. Atom's book.
25. Green Lantern #52 — April 1967. G.A. G.L.
26. Flash #170 — May 1967. G.A. Flash. Dr. Midnite, Dr. Fate

MARKET REPORTS

Dr. Roger Smyth
Funny Business
656 Amsterdam Avenue
New York City, NY 10025
212/799-9477

OVERVIEW: As I mentioned in the last Update, in February I spent a week in London, and in late April I was in Florida for a few days; it might be interesting to share my observations during these trips. First, England: SPIDERMAN, SPIDERMAN, SPIDERMAN. This seems to encapsulate what is going on there. I visited five stores in central London (couldn't get to our London reporters, Stateside Comics, since they were apparently too far outside of London), and the story was pretty much the same in all of the stores; the most sought after issues there are ASM roughly to about #129. I spent most of my time in the London Forbidden Planet (a fun place), and got some idea of what is going on. The first day I went in, I noted an ASM #129, about F-VF, priced at $325 (I've converted pounds here); next day it had been sold. The market for Silver Age DCs is small; noted a Showcase #43 (Dr. No), for about $40 with no takers. Going by my small survey, the market for Golden Age is small (as one dealer explained to me, comics were basically not known in England until the early 50's), and there is little market for Classics. Obviously there are specialized collectors for this material, but these books are not generally popular. In two of the five stores I visited, I saw wonderful collections of ECs, with no takers. I brought over some material to sell, and all of the Silver Age Marvels (from Man-Submariner Specials, to FF Annual #1, Captain America #100) were quickly grabbed, as any Silver Age Marvel seems to be. I received about 75% of my retail for this material, so you can figure their retail from that. I brought over copies of the Kiss Special from Marvel, and sold them at my full retail. The real surprise to me were some late #'s on the Gold Key Star Trek, multiple copies of which were grabbed immediately at about 75% of Guide, with more being asked for. Consistent reports were that the MacFarlane ASMs simply didn't sell. ASM 298 wasn't selling at $20. So, all in all, the market there is a bit different from our market, with some surprises.

Miami was surprising in a different way, in a more depressing manner, since the economy there didn't seem to be doing well. Prices in two stores

I visited were at about Guide, but both with reports of no sales Hulk #377 (1st) at $3 50 with no takers (here they sell quickly at $8). Both stores reported caution in stocking up on new issues, and one was concerned about its continued visibility. Interestingly, again, was the interest and quick purchase of some of some #'s of the Gold Key Star Treks which I had brought down there; one store bought all I had at about 50% of Guide. So, if you are in Florida for a vacation, and are in need of some recent and current issues, you might be able to find some bargains there, at least for now. The other conclusion from the above, if you are interested, is fill in your Gold Key Star Treks, as quickly as you can. Here, we don't get many requests for them, but obviously they are getting more and more popular.

In line with my comments about the economy, the following may be of interest. In February, just before leaving for London, I had a special 50% off vacation sale. Very regular advertisers, for two hours one night, and I was surprised at the purchases. Complete runs of ASM from 100-300 (no surprise), Iron Man in runs below #100, especially #50-#60, three copies of ASM #129 in VF+ at $150, Hulk #181 in Fine at $100, JLAs in runs below #150, many of the 100 page DC giants, bagged SMs. What was clear was that while there may have been some current price resistance, money will be spent when a bargain is offered. As I write this (early May), the economic situation seems to be improving, so I'd suggest that now may be the time to purchase those books you've been holding off on. As far as a prediction, I'd say buy X-Men (all of them), obviously catch up with ASM, they're going up-up-up, and Green Lantern; but before anything else, get the X-Men. They're just starting on a climb (with Lee), and I think in years to come, you'll look back on these days, and say "I should have." Also, consider New Mutants; even though the Liefelds are hot, the early issues are still comparatively cheap, and you'll need them for a complete set With the coming Mutant new issues and the attendant hoopla (five different covers????), this will affect all of the mutant titles. OK, let's get down to current happenings.

MARVEL STUFF: Most asked for, and found, copy are the Spiderman titles, Star Wars (Thor???), yup, with the death of Loki, and the new storyline, the fans are showing much interest in the title. All of the X-Men, with Jim Lee (#248 at $18, #268 at $14), and any of the in-between numbers sell at about double Guide. While this isn't extending back to earlier issues with any consistency at this point, I really think it points out a direction. Much interest in the Liefeld issues of New Mutants with #86 at $12, #87 at $18, and the later numbers at $5 to $8 each. #100 (1st), at $6-$8 is doing very well, thank you. A real dark horse here is Silver Surfer, in particular the Thanos issues #34 at $8, all of the murderers in the 40's at $4-$5, and much in demand with no supply at #50. Does this in turn indicate a possible increase in the earlier Surfer series? Too soon to tell. In passing, in mentioning Thanos, I suggest you keep your eyes out for Iron Man #55, a truly difficult book to find, and much in demand, going from $35-$60 at this point. I could not find one of them at either Guide or Diamond, and haven't had one in the store in months. Much interest in both the new X-Men and X-Force series, but no current predictions here. MacSM stays in demand with new issues, but there is some indication of a lessening with back issues, while ASM continues to stay in high demand in back issues, with the TM Bear issues, too.

Ghost Rider, Punisher, and Wolverine, both series and appearances remain in constant demand at Guide, with Ghost Rider #5 and #6 most difficult to find. Marvel Spotlight GR issues sell quickly at Guide (#5 easily sells at $50-$60 in really sharp condition, when available), but the final GR cycle issue is again little requested except for #1. Still think you might want to grab them while you can. Still can't supply the demand for Guardians #2 (at $6), or New Warriors #2 (at $8), while Thor #411 (cameo of New Warriors) sells quickly at $8, and #412 goes at $10 with no resistance. Deathlok appearances are very difficult to find, with the new series selling out quickly, and an Astonishing Tales #25 in nice shape easily reaching $20-$25. A constant back issue seller is Akira #1-#6 which are difficult to find, at 30%-50.% over Guide. Finally, just need to note the current insanity over the Marvel cards. Don't know what to say about these, except that I could probably sell 100 packs a day if I could get them. If you're a card collector, I guess you need them. Personally, the phenomenon reminds me of the hula hoop (and if you don't remember that one — good).

DC STUFF: Robin and Lobo have appeared to have gone on a brief vacation together, with little demand for them (which may mean this is the time to get them). The Armageddon series is off to a good start, with the Special sold out and reaching $5 in back issue, and the Superman and Batman annuals sold out the day they arrived. Looks to be a solid bet for now. Sandman, which is only a moderate seller as a new issue, is a dynamite in back issue, going from $1-#2 (#1-$20, #2-$14, #3-6 $8 on the few occasions when I have them). Animal Man may be breeding, because he certainly isn't selling. The Timeline series has proven popular and sells quickly at $3 each in back stock, but Action #662 has shown little interest past the first rush. Same applies to Superman #50 — have had one request in the past two to three months for this one (and I always believed in long engagements....) Some interest in various Creeper issues (aside from Beware The Creeper series), such as Flash #318-19, at Guide with no resistance.

INDEPENDENTS: With the independents, the usual seems to be the order of the day. Interest in current and back issue Terminator, Predator, Aliens, and Turtles to some degree but lessening, even with the release of the second movie, all at Guide. Nothing really of interest here, to be frank. Clearly, this is Marvel's year, and they are taking advantage of it. Next year may be DC's, with the Batman movie, but for now Marvel is overshadowing everything else.

My end note this time concerns the Flash TV show. It's still somewhat variable (primarily due to storylines), but has improved considerably. If you didn't catch the one with Mark Hamill as the Trickster, you missed a goody. Also, all the episodes with Night Shade were good. Try to catch reruns. The show may be cancelled, so if you are interested, contact your local station. Meanwhile, enjoy.

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The economy is on a lot of people's minds right now. Listening to the radio and reading the newspaper, one sees various statistics and hears words like "recession", but how do these translate into real life?

I'll tell you how. Almost every week I see a new vacant store where a business used to be. And, in terms of the comic market, I am seeing a flood of people trying to sell me comic books. Now, usually the spring is the time when I get the most collections. spring cleaning and all that, but it's never been like this. It's not all junk either; I'm seeing some prime Silver Age.

But it's not all bad news here in New York's Capital District. I know that I'm not going to be one of those vacant stores. Business is in general, up about 25% over last year and back issue sales seem to be up about 60%, just in terms of volume.

What is happening is that the bad economy is just shaking the apple tree a bit and some of the lousy apples are dropping. Most of the people selling me comic collections stopped collecting a while ago. Money was tight, so they looked around the house for something to sell that wouldn't hurt too much to part with. I know that this won't last forever, so I'm grabbing what I can.

However, if I start seeing a LOT of prime Gold and Silver, I will start to sweat a little.

Enough of this depressing stuff.

As the market continues to grow, it continues to mutate. For instance, I'm noticing a trend that my friend, Mike Dubosch has coined, "The Americanization of comic books." To wit: the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. The hot and semi-hot books begin to pull away while the lesser books trail farther behind. What this means here is that Marvel is killing DC, sales-wise. I sat down and figured it out: just the X-books (X-Men, New Mutants, X-Factor, X-Men Classic), and the Spider-books (Spiderman, Amazing, Web, Spectacular) as new issues outsell the entire DC line easily. In terms of back issues, well, see for yourself. As usual, all percentages are given in terms of X-Men sales, which is pretty much an industry standard.

1. X-Men (100%), 2. Amazing Spiderman (50%), 3 Fantastic Four (41%), 4. Spectacular Spiderman (32%), 5. Wolverine (31%), 6. Avengers (29%), 7. Web Of Spiderman (28%), 8. Daredevil (27%), 9. Marvel Team-Up (27%), 10. Hulk (25%), 11. Spiderman (23%), 12. Punisher (21%), 13. Captain America (22%), 14. Marvel Comics Presents (22%), 15. Doctor Strange (21%), 16. New Mutants (19%), 17. Subwarrior (19%), 18. What If..? (19%), 19. Thor/Journey Into Mystery (18%), 20. Superman (17%), 21. X-Factor (17%), 22. Action Comics (17%).

See what I mean? The top 19 are all Marvel!

Since the first of the year, 72% of back issues sales have been Marvel, 21% DC, 5% Alternates, and 3% Oddball (I know that's 101%. I rounded up). DC's share is down from about 27%.

MARVEL: Marvel has always dominated here, but this is getting ridiculous. The two new books coming out this summer (X-Force and X-Men) are ALREADY driving people around the bend (for some, that's not very far). The news, title by title:

Akira - As the length of this series grows, so do its back issue sales.

Avengers - Over the last three years this has consistently been our #3 title, after Amazing and X-Men (but WAY after). Sells mainly before #200 and after #310. Avengers West is dead to the world.

Conan - This is actually scaled to sell as a back issue here, but no longer. Some interest in the first 25 issues, though, especially #1.

Daredevil - About six months ago this title was in a slump, but no longer. Mainly issues after #180 are selling.

Defenders - Early 70's issues like these are starting to move. Hey! They're almost 20 years old. Same thing goes for Marvel Team-Up and even (shudder!) Marvel Two-In-One.

Excalibur - Back issue sales are on the basement (on this list it comes in 94th). The $3.25 special, listed at $15 in the Guide, just sits at $9.

Ghost Rider - Still red hot, but people are getting sick of seeing him everywhere. For instance Moon Knight #25 and Cloak & Dagger #18 didn't do much.

Fantastic Four - Sales here are mainly before issue #200. The recent issues do not do so well.

Hulk - At last, a best selling new issue. The issues #270-279 are currently much sought after.

Iron Man - Experiencing the weakest new and back issue sales ever. What is wrong with this title?

Marvel Comics Presents - If you had told me a year ago that this would be one of my top new and back issue sellers, I would have said you were crazy. Barry Windsor-Smith's gorgeous Weapon X has finally made this book a legitimate best seller.

Marvel Team-Up, etc. - This makes the list at 9th place because it has Spidey in it. Still, I'm starting to think that early 70's stuff like this may be the wave of the future. A lot of titles with the word Marvel in the title are starting to move after a long slumber. Spotlight, Two-In-One, Premiere, etc.

Moon Knight - Quest appearances galore don't seem to be helping this failing title.

New Mutants - Only the issues after #84 sell Annual #5 is the first Liefeld art on this book, so it vanishes. All the X-Traction Agenda books are red hot, selling out at $4-$5.

Punisher - Steady new and back issue sales. People are especially looking for the Portacio issues. War Journal is consistent.

Robocop - This book is being called Robocorpse.

Silver Surfer - The Silver Age series is much sought after, and the new series is in demand as well. Especially noteworthy is #34 which revives Thanos. By the way, everyone is looking for Thanos Quest.

Spiderman books - Amazing, after playing leapfrog with X-Men for about two years, is now definitely playing second fiddle. I think this is less a reflection on the title than an indication that X-Men is headed into the stratosphere. Spiderman sales are slipping slightly, but it is still my best selling new issue. Web and Spectacular are doing fine, thanks for asking.

Thor - Sales run hot and cold here. Too early to tell if the "new" Thor will do anything here. Opinion is that Loki won't stay dead. Evil's tough to kill, darn it.

X-Force - A lot of interest in the Portacio issues and the X-Tinction Agenda is very hot. Early issues somewhat slow.

X-Men - Selling the best it ever has; even the 70's Byrne issues are showing some life. Curiously, it is not doing all that great as a Silver Age book. People are selling me Silver Age X-Men more than any other title. Recent back issue sales are very, very hot. I plan to be out of town hiding somewhere when the new Jim Lee book comes in.

DC: I like DC, really I do. I enjoy reading the Superman titles, Lobo was funny, and Books Of Magic is my favorite book of the year so far. But DC's are losing ground. Their big trumps, Lobo and Robin were both mini-series, and they are both finished. Green Lantern: Emerald Dawn II is their only strong seller recently, and it's another mini-series. These weak new issue sales are being reflected in their back issue sales as well. I don't look for this trend to change any time soon, unfortunately. What's DC's big project this summer? The Impact Comics line. DC seems to be giving it a big push, but it kind of smells like New Universe to me.

One bright spot, though: DC's annuals this year are doing very well, so far. As of this writing we've only seen two: Superman and Batman. People are already hunting all over for these. What happens when the annuals for the lesser titles (like Hawk & Dove, for instance) come out and everyone only ordered ten?

Batman - His rapid rate of descent has slowed. Batman is now in 33rd place, Detective in 61st, which is pretty much where they belong. Mainly the newer issues are selling. Perhaps the older ones are too pricey (?). Legends Of The Dark Knight is selling best of all three as a new and back issue (25th place).

Flash - After an initial burst of speed this title has faded again. The current title really has very little to do with the TV show, although #50 with the TV costume was a minor hit.

Green Lantern - Oh me, oh my. This book was doing very well, but when they did the series about G'Nort, people headed for the hills. This yuk-a-minute stuff wears thin fast, guys. Was in 5th place last report, now 36th. May be partially due to dwindling supply of the Silver Age issues.

Justice League titles - JLA (the Silver Age series, mind you) is doing decently at #28, which is a bit of a fluke. The new books, Justice League and JLE are pretty much a lost cause.

Lobo - Series did very well and the back issues are sought after, but DC can't depend on this guy to sell comics. The Lobo appearances in Demon did not do well.

Superman titles - Experiencing a modest Renaissance. Of course, nothing like Batman had a few years ago, though. Superman is the only DC title in the top 20. Action is at #22, and Adventures Of is at #75, which is about the best it's ever done.

ALTERNATE/ODDBALL: The comment about "the poor getting poorer" is especially true here. Would you believe that Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Adventures (from Archie) was my best selling alternate?

There are, of course, exceptions. Almost anything Dark Horse does seems to turn out well, but even they can have problems. Their Indiana Jones book has disappointing sales.

A nice surprise was the Magnus Robot Fighter book. Issues one and two were immediate sellouts here. A lot of dealers were caught with their pants down on this book (not a pretty sight). The Mummy from Millenium also did well.

As far as oddball books go, I don't know about other stores, but here some oddball books just sit around for years on end and then suddenly a couple of people wander in and buy all you have. This happened recently with 60's Archies (real cheap), Classics Illustrated, and Little Lulu.

That's it from New York's Capital District, so, until Aunt May takes up kickboxing, MAKE MINE OVERSTREET.

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Greetings to all you comicholics across this great land. This is our first market report ever, so we will try to keep things neat and sweet.

MARVEL (New Stuff): Holy Moley!! What can one say! Marvel simply outsells everything and everyone on the block. Liefeld's New Mutants, Starlin's Surfers, any Portadicio, any Thomas, Jim Lee's X-Men, Keown Hulks, Portacio X-Factors, McSpudys ---- we order in the 100's and they always sell out; hot barely does these titles justice. Even Akira at $4.95 a pop is a hot title. Ghost Rider, Ironman, FFs and Avengers still sell well, but have slowed. The big shocker is Wolverine and the Punisher. Their appearances sell better than their own titles. And Barry Smith's Weapon X outsells Wolverine by two to one. What's going on? Have these bad boy titles put on the brakes?

Something not so mysterious is Mr. McFarlane. Has there ever been anything like him in the history of comics? Fans just can't seem to get enough of the Toddster. It's impossible to keep his books in stock, which makes us scramble all over town bugging our wholesales for more product. I can't remember any artist/writer who's had such a profound effect on both the business and the fans (Jim Lee is closing the gap).

DC (New Stuff): I'm happy to report that there's been an upswing in DC title sales. Legends Of The Dark Knight are moving well, as is Superman, Green Lantern (Emerald Dawn II is hot), and Robin, although the latter has stabilized a bit. Let us not forget Lobo. His popularity continues to increase, as do sales of his appearances, and his mini-series is boffo as a back issue. JLA and JLE sell decently and, believe it or not, so does Teen Titans. But DC still has many titles that just sit, and I mean sit: Nazz, Wonder Woman, Hawk World, and on and on. Is it the writing, art, or both? No one knows for sure — you make the call.

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INDEPENDENTS (New Stuff): Dark Horse is the byword, no question. Their hot titles are right up there with the big boys. I just wish, like everyone else, that they would be on time; but maybe that's hoping for too much. Jade Man comics have really picked up; Hardboiled and Give Me Liberty always sell out. 2001 Knights, Cobra, Turtles, Archie: very iffy. Disney, though we don't order deeply, sells out consistently. Everything else — you might as well blow tape. Did I mention eco-comics? They're red hot here; I guess there are a lot of nasty folks out in comicland; we always sell out of those puppies

BACK ISSUES:

70's: If you want to move recent back issues, they better be in VF+ to NM/M or you might as well toss them in your dollar bin. They do NOT sell, at least in our store. NM/M books (especially early to mid-70's Marvels) are hot. Recent Marvel sales include: Marvel Spotlite #5 - Ghost Rider (NM $90); Ghost Rider #1 (NM $80), Marvel Team Up #25 - Ghost Rider (M $25), X-Men #94 (NM $115) (this number has put on the market recently), X-Men Giant Size #1 (NM $100), Amazing Spiderman #129 (NM $300), Hulk #181 (NM $300). These last two numbers have gotten soft. Two red hot items - Astonishing Tales #25: Deathlok (NM $40) and Iron Man #55: Thanos (NM $100). These two titles in high grade always sell above Guide. DC sales of 70's books have bit the dust. We sell hardly anything but bits and pieces from that era; a really lob ebb in DC history, at least for us.

SILVER AGE:

MARVEL: Marvel is not the leader of Silver Age anymore, or it's at least slowed down a lot. Let's face it, most serious collectors have the Marvels

and they need and are concentrating on other things. True, high grade key Marvels are always going to be sought after, but anything below fine we usually end up throwing in our Silver Age 1/2 off box (where they move nicely). Asking double/ triple Guide for these books in any grade lower than VF, I feel, is outrageous and just plain greedy. A few sales include: Journey Into Mystery #83 (VF $900), Iron Man #1 (NM $300), Tales Of Suspense #39 (F $350), Amazing Spiderman #50 (M $200), Silver Surfer #1 (M $200), Fantastic Four #48 (M $200), Amazing Spiderman #1 (NM $4,500), Amazing Spiderman #'s 1 to 20 (G/VG $2,000).

DC: In our store, and at the cons, DC sow outsells Marvel easily. Everyone, it seems, is avidly pursuing high-grade keys and even more obscure titles (like war books, western books, you name it). It seems to be true that high-grade DC Silver Age titles are dang hard to find and in short supply. I, for one, am a lot more likely to charge above guide for DC Silvers than for Marvel, and rightfully so about. Sales of note: Justice League #1 (VF+ $800), Mystery In Space #54 - Adam Strange (VF $495), Atom #1 (NM $475), Brave And The Bold #28 - 1st Justice League (VF+ $1,400), Aquaman #1 (NM $225), Showcase #4 (F+/VF $4,000).

GOLDEN AGE: Golden Age sales have slowed way down. Only the most high-grade unrestored copies move well. Timelys and DCs, of course, lead the way, although Crandell Qualstys and Jungle/Fiction House titles have picked up. Oddly enough, there's a lot of interest lately in late 40's/early 50's horror titles and L. B. Cole covers. Sales include: Marvel Mystery #8 (VG+ $800), Sensation #20 (NM $500), Jumbo #12 (NM $295), Impact #1 (VG/F $150), Green Lantern #4 (VG $400).

Some Afterthoughts: All in all, a great year (so far) has been had by all. Summer is right around the corner, and we expect to kick a little butt. We can't complain about our sales. Our philosophy: treat your customers good, encourage their business and give them a good deal.

Thanks and a happy summer to you all!

P.S. Watch out for the Kirby 60's Monster comics in high grade!

Buy 'em up!

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Michael Halbleib/owner
Cynthia Boyd/manager

First off, congratulations on your twenty-first annual edition.

As this is our first report, we thought we would tell you a little about ourselves: we are the larges store in Montana, serving Great Falls, a city of approximately 50,000; we have 100 subscribers and 250 customers. We serve a farming community, so business is very seasonal. We serve one Air Force base and have been in business for five years. Our back stock fluctuates between 30 and 50 thousand comics.

NEW RELEASES:

Independents: Most of this market is dead. Here are the only exceptions:

Dark Horse - All titles sell well with Aliens, Predator, Terminator and Indiana Jones leading the pack. These titles sell as well as middle-tier Marvels such as Hulk, Daredevil, etc.

Classics Illustrated - started hot, but died just as fast.

Eternity - all titles sell poorly. Planet Of The Apes and Alien Nation #1's sold well, but subsequent issues haven't sold at all.

Adult titles sell well when we stock them, but there are too many titles out there to carry them all.

New lines by Disney and Harvey sell poorly here.

Valiant had a respectable showing with Magnus, Robot Fighter and could be a real surprise.

Last but not least is Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. HOT HOT HOT stuff in all formats. The movies are only helping the success of this title.

DC: Batman is still #1, but not by much. Anticipate #467 to be a major seller with the return of Robin. Detective, the Superman titles and Legends Of The Dark Knight have all gained upper-tier status in the DC market. All mature titles such as Hellblazer, Sandman, Swamp Thing, etc. have dropped by 50% in the last year. Green Lantern and Emerald Dawn II have dropped from upper-tier to middle-tier sales. Flash has shown an increase of over 20% in the last two months. Is this due to the TV show or his great new costume. We sell #50 for $3. All Justice League titles have slipped dramatically in recent months. Our norm see for sleeper of the year is Armageddon 2001 and all cross-overs. The first issue outsold all other DC's by at least two to one, and cross-overs are doing just as well. Put #1 at $5.

Marvel: Outsells DC by over two to one here. Marvel Comics Presents: Weapon X is by quantity our hottest seller. #72, part one, sells for $7 - $10. This chronicles a major event in Wolverine's life and is a must for all Wolverine collectors. Spider-Man is tied with MCP for the #1 position. Back issues are in high demand as well. For more on this, see back issue report. X-Force is anticipated to be a huge seller and we have ordered on par with last year's Spider-Man #1. Ghost Rider, Wolverine, Uncanny X-Men Excalibur, X-Factor, Silver Surfer and the other three Spider-Man titles are extremely popular and always in demand.

Incredible Hulk with art by Dale Keown is extremely hot and his first issue brings $7. Thor #432 could be the turning point for a dying comic. They sold out twice for us and we still have a demand. Dead titles include Conan The Barbarian, Groo, Quasar, She-Hulk, Moon Knight and Nam. Dying titles include Avengers, Avengers West Coast and Captain America. Guardians Of The Galaxy and New Warriors sold hot initially but have slowed to middle-tier status. Ghost Rider #15 with the glow-in-the-dark cover has already generated high orders and we expect to sell double our normal quantity. Our predictions for the future include Deathlok, Infinity Gauntlet and cross-overs. X-Force, X-Men, Punisher P O V. and all Marvel annuals.

BACK ISSUES: As previously stated, our back issue sales are very seasonal, but luckily it's been a good season. All prices listed have been for books sold since January 1, 1991.

Independents: TMNT - we can sell any back issue at Guide price provided that price is under $25. We have no demand for the older, more expensive issues. Recent sales: #4 NM 1st print -$20, #5 NM 1st print - $15, #7 NM 1st print - $12.

Aliens - All series are in demand provided they are first prints. Recent sales: 1st series - #1 NM/M $25, #2 NM/M $15, #3 NM/M $8. Color series: #1 NM/M $10.

Predator - same as Aliens. Recent sales: #1 NM/M $20, #2-4 NM/M $10 each

Dark Horse Presents - only the Aliens and Predator appearances are hot. Recent sales: #24 NM/M $20, #36 NM/M $12

Cerebus - deader than a doornail Can't sell back issues at half of Guide.

Terminator - selling extremely well since Dark Horse took over. Recent sales: NOW series - #1 NM/M $12, Dark Horse #1 NM/M $5. Special Note: the first Terminator comic appearance was in Rust #12 by NOW Comics. We price them at $15.

All other independent sales are minimal and we rarely get Guide prices for anything. Gold Key, Dell, Charlton, etc. do not sell for us here.

DC:

Golden Age: All issues sell extremely fast when we can get them. Recent sales: Action #162 VG $40, Batman #69 VG $65, Detective #76 (Joker cover/story) VG $200.

Silver Age: Only key issues sell quickly. Otherwise, high grades are required to receive Guide prices. Our hottest sellers in order are Green Lantern, Batman, Justice League Of America and Detective. Recent sales: Green Lantern #59 (first Guy Gardner) F $45, #76 (1st Adams) F $27.50, Detective #225 (Second S.A. Green Lantern) G $60, Mystery In Space #53 (first Adam Strange) G $90, Batman #200 NM $100, #234 (first S.A. Two-Face) NM $30, Brave And The Bold #34 (first Hawkman) VG $35, Aquaman #1 FR $20.

New Age: Robin was DC's smash hit for last year. We sell out quickly at these prices: #1 $15, #2 $7, #3-5 $3 each. One quick note: One #1's, the posters must still be attached! Lobo started hot, but cooled quickly. We can't sell #1's for $5. Batman issues with Tim Drake sell very well at 1.5 times Guide.

All other Batmans sell poorly, even below Guide. Recently, we sold a set of "A Death In The Family" #'s 426-429 for half of Guide. Any momentum he had from the movie is long gone. Detective sells about the same as Batman and Legends Of The Dark Knight doesn't sell at all as a back issue. In their new series, Flash, Green Lantern and the three Superman titles do not sell well as back issues, although their new sales are brisk. The only exception to this is Superman #50 which sells for $10 when in stock.

Marvel: Amazing Spider-Man is our #1 seller with key issues bringing 1.5 to 2 times Guide price, depending on condition. In biggest demand are all numbers under #50, #96-100, #102, #121, #122, #129 and #298-300. Recent sales: #3 VG $210, #6 G $100, #122 NM $75, #129 FR $25, #200 NM $15, #238 NM $35, #298 M $50, #300 M $45 All McFarlane issues sell well at 1.5 times Guide. Web and Spectacular Spider-Man sell slowly at Guide prices. Spider-Man #1 and #3-up sell quickly at Guide. #2's sell for 1.5 times Guide. Is it just us, or does there seem to be a shortage of this number?

The only Captain America issues we have demand for are #100, #117, #241 and Annual #8. All other issues sell slowly. Recent sales: #100 NM $175, #241 M $65, Annual #8 $25

We can't keep Ghost Rider in stock. Our last run sold as follows: #1 $20, #2 $12, #3,4 $6 each, #5,6 $10 each. The old series is also in demand. We recently sold a #1 in fine condition for $15. Champions is also hot, bringing 1.5 times Guide prices.

No matter what title he's in, Wolverine SELLS! However, supply seems plentiful and mark-ups are not needed. Recent sales: mini-series - #1 M $15, #2,3 M $11 each, #4 M $16. Regular series - #1 M $15, #10 M $12. We also sold a copy of Hulk #181 in fine for $125.

Jim Lee has made X-Men hot again. His first issue, #248, sells out immediately at $15. Jim Lee fans note: he also illustrated the first seven issues of Punisher War Journal. Mutant Massacre and Fall Of The Mutants issues sell well also, and there seems to be a major upswing in issues prior to #200, a market that had been entirely dead during the Christmas shopping season. Recent X-Men sales: Giant-size #1 F $50, #94 VG/F $45, #120,121 NM/M $30 each, #210-213 NM/M $15 each. Issues prior to #94 sell at Guide if not VF or better.

Punisher has lost a lot of his popularity with demand for his regular series at an all-time low, though demand for the mini-series and Punisher War Journals #1-7 remains high. Recent sales: mini-series - #1 NM $50, #2 NM $25, #3 NM $15, #4,5 NM $12 each. War Journal - #1 M $15, #6 M $15, #7 M $8.

The mid-seventies Marvels such as Team-Up, Spotlight, etc. sell well at Guide prices, but this is probably due to the fact that these prices are so low. A Marvel Spotlight #2 (first Werewolf) is fun to own at $2.50, but who would buy one for $10? If the book contains a major hero or villain, however, a high price becomes justified, as with Team-Up issues featuring Spidey, Ghost Rider, etc.

Other titles that sell well include Incredible Hulk under #200 and all issues from #365 (first Keowa), Fantastic Four under #50, What If's featuring any X-Men, Iron Man under #100. Recent sales: Fantastic Four #2 VG $250, #6 F $250, #8 VG $90, #25,26 (sold as set) F $125, Iron Man #1 NM/M $325, #1 VF $268, Incredible Hulk #5 VG $85, Amazing Adventures #1 G $40.

And that's it from the Big Sky Country. Hope the information meets your needs and feel free to call on us anytime.

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After a few months rest, it is nice to get back into the swing of things, especially the way sales have been. The market looks better than ever. The war is over, and the economy looks to be starting its upswing, and as a result, sales have been great. Let's take a look at individual reports.

DC: As always, Golden Age DC's continue to be the hottest area of the market. We have recently been able to find and sell some of the most requested keys, including All Flash #1, Adventure #40 and $8, All Star #8 and Superman #1. As Silver Age prices climb ever higher, Golden Age continues to be a bargain, especially considering the rarity of the comics as compared to the Silver Age.

Speaking of which, Silver Age DC is red hot also. Most in demand are early Showcases, Flash, and first appearances of Golden Age characters in the Silver Age. Flash #137 is probably the most requested single issue, followed by all Showcase first appearances. We look for all early Showcase issues to rise sharply in value this year, as well as other early Golden Age character appearances. Two books to keep an eye on are Showcase #55 and Brave And The Bold #34. One thing to keep in mind is how early most DC's are compared to Marvels. A comic like Flash #137 came out the same time as Spiderman #3, while even a later issue like Showcase #55 came out before Fantastic Four #48.

Some recent DC sales include: Adventure #40 F/G $1000, All American #19 F/G $350, All-Flash #1 F/VF $1600, All Star #8 VG- $900, #43 VF+ $310, Atom #29 VF $30, Batman #6 G $225, Challengers #10 VF/NM $90, Detective #6 F/VF $1050, #85 VG+ $200, Flash #96 VF $400, #137 VF $100, More Fun #70 VG/F $250, Showcase #4 VG- $950, #8 VF+ $1250, #34 VG $100, #60 VF/NM $80, Superman #1 Poor $1400.

MARVEL: Golden Age Timely's are on the move. We are getting more and more requests for most all key Timely's (with the possible exception of Marvel Comics #1). Looking at the Guide, these seem to be great bargains. A copy of All Select #1 is only a couple of hundred dollars more in the Guide than a Tales Of Suspense #39 or a Justice League #1, and three or four times as rare. We recently sold a VF- copy of Captain America #1 for $9,400, and regarded it afterwards. We have also had numerous requests for the Human Torch/Sub-Mariner battle issues. Almost any Schomburg war cover or Red Skull cover sells immediately.

In Silver Age, there is still no stopping Spiderman. Demand for back issues of Spidey remains huge. It is still our number one selling title, even though Tales Of Suspense, early Caps and Iron Man are very hot. Strange Tales has been much requested lately, with emphasis on #101-134. We are also seeing renewed interest in early Fantastic Fours.

Marvel sales include: All Winners #1 F/G $325, All Select #2 VF $500, Amazing Spiderman #6 VG $150, #12 VF/NM $200, Captain America #1 VF- $9,400, #16 G $150, #100 VF/NM $200, Daredevil #1 F/G $65, Fantastic Four #4 G $80, Human Torch #8 VG+ $300, Marvel Mystery #1 B VG $175, Silver Surfer #1 VF/NM $165, Sub-Mariner #20 VG+ $80, Tales Of Suspense #41 G $30, #58 VF $85, Young Allies #19 F/VF $120.

MISC: Early reprint titles are showing some demand. We recently sold a copy of Funnies On Parade in VG+ for $1100, and have had requests for other early Famous Funnies. Most other misc. Golden Age titles sell at a slower but steady rate. One other area worth mentioning is that demand for early Gold Keys is up, especially photo covers or cartoon series comic books.

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Hello again. Last time we talked to you we were discussing the imminent war and what effect it might have on the comic collecting hobby. Well, luckily it was a short one with minimal casualties and didn't have much effect on the economy. Welcome home, guys! We are coming to the end of our tourist season down here and it's been a good one for us. Judging by our increased sales of back issues, it looks like the economy is on the upswing. Recently we picked up a collection of several thousand comics from the mid 1950's to the early sixties. A good portion of them were DCs, including almost all of the key issues, and even though most of the books were in lower grades, it was like a shark feeding frenzy we had here. Within two weeks about 3/4 of the stuff had been sold and most of what was left was funny titles like Richie Rich and miscellaneous Dell funny comics. After a dreadfully slow autumn season the market has bounced back full force! All DCs and Marvels from this time period are extremely hot now in any grade. Even the obscure western, war and sci-fi titles moved quickly for us. (Yes, even Millie The Model, and Sgt. Barney Barker.) Key Golden Age books have moved very well for us lately. Some of our recent sales include: Adventure #48 NM+ unrestored $6000, Red Raven #1 NM $3,200, Superman #1 really sad shape $2,500, and Detective #66 VG+ $500. As for other Golden Age books, Timely books with Captain America appearances seem to be the most in demand, though most Timely books sell briskly for us when we get them in. As for DC, most titles 1935-1944 sell as soon as we get them, but (with some exceptions) the later 1940's issues are slower sellers. The formerly plentiful Fawcett, Captain Marvel family books are getting harder to come by and we now among our most asked for Golden Age books. The Quality comics titles are quite slow at the moment. We've had some nice early Police comics for some time now and haven't been able to move them. The market for Classics Comics is very strong right now regardless of the printing. All Disney comics and other Dell "funny books," like Looney Tunes, New Funnies, etc. are very hot right at the present time. All comics before 1939 are rare and are one of the cases where Overstreet should be considered just a "guide." Since they are so scarce, dealers can ask pretty much whatever they want on these books since the collector may never see another one offered for sale. Westerns with photo covers do quite well as do most movie and TV comics. Crime comics are pretty slow but the horror and sci-fi ones are starting to move again, especially ones with the more in demand artists like Ditko and Wood.

NEW COMICS: At the time of this writing, Silver Surfer #50 with its silver embossed cover has just come out, and was, I believe, our fastest seller ever. Talking to customers, it seems every store in our area was out of them in a matter of hours. If you were lucky enough to get one (or more), congratulations! If not, expect to pay high when you do find one. Deadly Foes Of Spiderman started off selling about 95 as we had expected, but by the time #2 came out it had become one of our most requested books. The Weapon X series running in Marvel Comics Presents is a hot seller and is causing increased interest in back issues of this formerly mediocre seller. Ghost Rider, Wolverine, and Punisher continue to make whatever books they appear in to be huge sellers. The mutant titles with the exception of Alpha Flight and Excalibur are still blazingly hot, and back issues of X-Men, X-Factor and New Mutants from the past year or so sell as soon as they are put in our boxes. The first X-Men issue without Jim Lee artwork has just come out, so it is too soon to see how his departure from the book will affect sales. Todd McFarlane's Spiderman is still the best selling Marvel title. It amazes us how quickly back issues of this title sell. We recently doubled the amount of each back issue that we stock in our boxes, and we still are having to restock them every couple of days! The other Spidey titles are not doing as well. Amazing still has very good sales, but Web and Spectacular are floundering. New Guardians and Guardians Of The Galaxy are great sellers as are Hulk and Darkhawk. Avengers, FF, Daredevil, Captain America and Namor are average sellers. Slow ones are Moon Knight, Nam, GI Joe, Punisher and Punisher War Journal (which started out with a bang and then fizzled out). Silver Surfer has risen to become one of our best movers in both new issues and older books. One of the reasons is the intense interest now in books with Thanos in them. Our most asked for back issue by far is Iron Man #35 with the first Thanos. It lists in the current Guide for $10. If you can find a nice one now for $25 consider yourself having gotten a bargain. Bill Vogels up of this Guide is to check the bargain bins for Marvel's Logan's Run #6, which has a nice early Thanos story by Mike Zeck as a backup feature. Getting back to new stuff, look for the Infinity Gauntlet crossover series to be a big winner

as well as the mutant titles that lead into the new X-Force and X-Men books. As for DC, the Armageddon 2001 storyline is hot and are their most requested new books at the moment. The Superman titles continue to be hot but the customers are still waiting to see more of the Clark/Lois storyline. The Batman books have slowed to about the point they were at before the movie came out. Legends Of The Dark Knight is the best seller, and does very well as a back issue. DC's first character in the Wolverine/Punisher vein, Lobo, is having the same effect for DC as the previously mentioned guys have had at Marvel. Any book he appears in has had boosted sales. The current crossover in the Demon is a good example. Legion '91 sales are up as well because of his membership. Look for lots more guest appearances a la Ghost Rider in the future. Green Lantern has slowed quite a bit due to their using different Green Lanterns in each storyline. The customers seem to prefer a strong lineup of characters. Flash is hot! Issue #50 with his new costume was a complete sellout and is going down here for $5. Sandman is another book that is taking off because of its unusual but fascinating storyline. Other books in the same vein like Hellblazer and Swamp Thing are not doing as well. Average sellers include JLA, Animal Man, Green Arrow, Starman, Star Trek and Captain Atom. Slow books are: all the TSR books, Challengers Of The Unknown, Shadow Strikes and New Gods.

Independents: As expected, the new Predator Big Game series is hot, as are the Aaron Rice books, Vampire Lestat and The Mercenary. Punisher have had a resurgence in popularity due to the new movie. The first dozen or so issues are selling great, and are getting harder to come by. Recently the Robotech series has been selling very well for us as new books as well as back issues. Badger is another book that was formerly a poor seller but is now one of our best back issue independents. Flaming Carrot has started to move again, as has mid-run issues of Cerebus.

SILVER AGE: As for Marvel, Amazing Spiderman is the best seller with the first 150 issues being in tremendous demand, as are all Punisher appearances. Issues #1-30, #100, #121, #122 sell as soon as we get them in higher grades. Lower grades are a tad slower, but still move quickly, especially issues featuring the Green Goblin. X-Men are still selling very well, with #1-20 being the most in demand. All issues with the Juggernaut and Sentinels are the most asked for X-Men reprint issues. #67-93 are now in high demand and are getting tougher to come by. The first and second Ghost Rider series are red hot and are skyrocketing in price. The same can be said for the Deathlok stories in Astonishing Tales. Fantastic Four #1-21, #48-50 and any Silver Surfer appearances are fast movers, as are any issues of the Surfer's first series. Avengers, Daredevil, Dr. Strange, Strange Tales, Tales To Astonish and Nick Fury are slower sellers except for key issues. Journey Into Mystery, Iron Man, Tales Of Suspense, Thor, Hulk and Captain America still fly out of here in higher grades. Lower grades still sell well, but not like the VF or better copies. Sgt. Fury early issues are on the upswing as are westerns like Two Gun Kid and Rawhide Kid.

DC's: We've discussed these earlier, but basically all titles 1954-1962 are in very high demand and are hard to come by. The mid-sixties titles like Atom, Aquaman, Hawkman, Doom Patrol are still actively sought after, but some of the titles like Metal Men, Metamorpho, Hawk And Dove, etc have slowed down from the fever pitch they were in. The new extra large E.C. comics have been a flop for us here, and that is aggravating since the Gladstone series was picking up steam and was beginning to sell well for us. I know those aren't Silver Age, but I just thought about it and don't want to rewrite this whole thing. As a last note, Archie titles from the 1960's and 1970's are selling very quickly for us at the present and should be seeing an increase in price soon. That's about it for now. Have a nice summer, and remember that Bill is always thinking about you or your refrigerator. Bye.

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Well, spring is here and, as it seems to do almost every year, summer will soon follow. We here at Mountain Empire Comics have enjoyed a moderately successful beginning to the year.

In our last Update report, we talked about the amazing success of Legends Of NASCAR #1 in our area. Since that first issue came out in December, there haven't been any following issues (it's now mid-May), so interest has declined somewhat. We do expect high sales on that long-awaited second issue, however.

In the meantime, the hard-to-find $1.50 version is selling for $50, while the $2 cover price version is still at $8. The third version, with the $3 cover price, has risen to $4. Again, we should note that our area has a very strong NASCAR following, so demand for these issues is very high. Other parts of the country probably won't see as much movement on this comic as we do.

Another surprise for us has been (brace yourself, now!) Barbie #1. The first issue of Barbie and Barbie Fashion, sealed in plastic bags, have been very hot movers for us, with each selling for $10. As with NASCAR, these customers are from outside the regular group of collectors, which is something we'd like to see happen more often.

Speaking of the regular comics market, it's time to see what's hot and what's a flop.

MARVEL: Not a lot of changes here, with Ghost Rider and McFarlane's Spider-Man leading the pack. While prices on the bagged Spider-Man #1 have remained pretty steady, the black and gold second printing has seen a modest rise to $4. Ghost Rider #1 is selling here for $16 and they move very quickly at that price.

We have noticed a decline in sales on the Amazing Spider-Man issues McFarlane did. While #298 and #300 are still hot, #301-up have not been selling at Guide prices, so we've dropped a bit. However, we sold a mint copy of the "platinum" edition of Spider-Man #1 for $300 last week.

Interest has been high on the Rob Liefeld issues of New Mutants, with #86 selling here for $9 and #87 going for $11. The double-sized #100 is hot at $3.

Extinction Agenda issues are still selling well at $3 each while Fantastic Four #347-349 are going for $5 each. New Warriors #1 has climbed to $7 and #2 is $4. Fiestar's membership in the New Warriors has also increased interest in her mini-series, with #1 now going for $3.

Books gone cold for Marvel include Cloak & Dagger, Alpha Flight, X-Men Classics and Moon Knight.

DC: There haven't been any dramatic rises in prices on DC back issues since our last report. Robin #1 has risen to $9 and the new Flash #1 to $10. We recently sold a set of Green Lantern: Emerald Dawn I for $50.

We have noticed a big drop in sales on new issues of Starman, Hawk & Dove, Dr. Fate and the AD & D comics, and sales of back issues on these are practically non-existent.

OTHERS: Interest in the new Rocketeer movie have spurred sales on his back issues, with Pacific Presents #1 climbing to $6 while Rocketeer Adventure Magazine #1 going to $6 and #2 selling for $4.

Aliens Vs. Predator is selling well, with both #1 and #2 at $6, #3 at $4 and #4 at $3.50. We've also seen a renewed interest in the Turtles with the release of the second movie, but prices are basically the same.

Well, that's about it from our little corner of the comics world. We hope everyone has a great summer. Happy reading!

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Greetings once again from the staff at Flying Colors and thanks to Jon Warren for allowing us to have some input to the Price Update.

A market observation from the last several months, then on to the new prices. We have noticed a sizeable increase in the number of people buying new comics. This would be great, but it seems that a good portion of these new comics buyers are former sportscard speculators who became disenchanted with that hobby when prices flattened out in the last year. As merchants of comics, particularly new comics, it is important for us to stress the entertainment value of actually reading the comics. New comics speculation, without new comics readership, is not healthy for comics in the long term. When we do what we can to promote the intrinsic value of comics first, we'll have a much more stable market for a long time to come.

In new comics, Marvel is way out in front of DC by a margin of 2.5 to 1. All new Marvel first issues released in the last several months have sold according to high expectations, with Darkhawk being the biggest hit. Even Destroyer:Drive By Heaven sold out! McFarlane's Spider-Man is still Marvel's best seller, with the Uncanny X-Men (fueled by ultra-hot artist Jim Lee) right behind. X-Factor and New Mutants sales are now close to triple what they were just a year ago (kudos to Walter Portacio and Rob Liefeld). Ghost Rider's move to the top has splattered due to what a lot of comic buyers consider over-exposure. The glow-in-the-dark cover gimmick should spur some more interest in the book. As I'm writing this, Silver Surfer #50 has just been released, and this puppy is HOT! This will mean even more anticipation for the Infinity Gauntlet mini-series by Starlin and Perez. Wolverine has jumped about 30% in the last several months and the coming revelations (finally!) about Wolvie & Sabretooth will definitely spur even higher sales. Barry Windsor-Smith's Weapon X in Marvel Comics Presents has taken that book to an all-time high, with sales more than triple what they were before.

In the back issue bins, nothing is flying quite like the X-books. X-Men under issue #66 and from #207 up are hard to keep up with. X-Men sales include #2 F $200 (selling within three hours of when we got it), a run of Neal Adams issues (#56-63) went for $20 each, X-Men #248 (Lee's first) goes quickly

at slightly above Guide, #256-258 go quickly at $5-6 each, #270-272 fly fast at $4-6 each and #273-276 all go fast at $2.50-$4.00 each. X-Factor #63 (Portacio's first) is a hot ticket at $4 and New Mutants from #86-100 all go at substantially over Guide, with #87 being a legitimate $15 book. McSpidey books are still cooking out of the bins, with #1-7 all going at 12-25% over guide. Is there a person alive that doesn't have a Spider-Man #1? New Warriors #1 sells briskly at $7-8 when we can get it. Darkhawk #1 sells fast at $5.75, Guardians Of The Galaxy #1 moves at $6.50, all Peter David/Dale Keown issues of the Incredible Hulk are moving well above Guide prices. Punisher sales have slowed down. Ghost Rider #4 (new series) is the hottest book of that series, selling fast at $12 when we can get it.

DC has done very well over the past few months with titles like Armageddon 2001, all the Superman titles, Green Lantern/Emerald Dawn II, Batman:Legends Of The Dark Knight, Sandman and Books Of Magic. All of these titles have been selling above expectations, with the curious footnote that (related to our previous comment about readers vs. speculators) these titles have a very strong reader to sales ratio, meaning that according to what we've been able to ascertain, a higher percentage of DC comics we sell are actually being read than just bought for speculative reasons. Recent price changes: all Batman:Legends Of The Dark Knight are selling above Guide, with #1 going steady at $7.50 and all others at about 15% over Guide. Lobo #1 (first print) sells steadily at $7.50, more than double the Guide price. Sandman back issues defy the Guide altogether, with #2-6 being the hardest to come by. Recent sales include #2 at $14, #7 at $8 and #9-20 all at above Guide. The Superman Annual (and Armageddon tie-in) sold out faster than a sleazy senator and we expect the other annuals in the story to do quite well. Other DC titles doing quite well include World Without End and Kid Eternity.

Other new comics that have done surprisingly well include Indiana Jones and the Dark Horse Fifth Anniversary Special (although recently Predator has been a real disappointment). Tundra is new line well worth watching, with titles like Bratpack, Cages, Fun Boys and From Hell all selling better than many mainline DC comics. Anne Rice adaptations continue to do well, with Vampire Lestat outselling Millennium's Mummy by a 2-1 Applesseed, Dirty Pair and Venus Wars leading the pack.

Trends, continued: we have seen renewed interest in back-issue Archies, particularly from the 60's, and in Dell Four Color with TV or movie photo covers. Interestingly, these are selling as curios rather than collectibles, so the lower grades at affordable prices move much better than the high grades, higher priced issues. Disney Comics have been doing quite well also, with Roger Rabbit and Chip 'n' Dale Rescue Rangers back issues selling above Guide.

That looks like the best year for comics, with more people buying and reading than ever before, and with a greater diversity of product than ever before. Let's all do what we can to get as many turned on to this fun hobby as possible. And, remember, the next "hot" book could still be in the quarter boxes now. COMICS ARE COOL!!!

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Hey, everybody, glad to be writing this! It seems like a million years since the last one. Business has been great for us and it seems like it has been for the whole industry. The so-called recession has not been evident around here.

We have seen several new trends developing since our last report. Silver Age is still selling as quickly as we can put it out, as is Golden Age. It seems that no slowdown is in sight. Well, let's get to it, shall we?

GOLDEN AGE

Timely/Atlas - Since the price increase in the new Guide, interest in Timelys is at an all-time high. Captain America leads the pack and pretty G.A. Caps are extremely hard to find and easy to sell. Sub-Mariners and Marvel Mystery are also moving at a brisk pace. All these books are selling at Guide with the exception of the NM-Mint copies which sell quickly at above Guide. We are also seeing a renewed interest in Young Allies. The other Timelys also sell briskly when we find them.

DC/National - Green Lantern and Flash are the story here. We have had calls on these books. Recently we have come across several high grade copies of All American and Green Lantern and they sold with no problem. We constantly get requests for Flash but everyone wants to buy them and no one wants to sell. Detective still moves well, as does Batman, especially the key issues. We have also sold several issues of Action and Superman, and interest in Golden Age Superman seems to be on the rise. We also get tremendous interest in Golden Age war covers and find them hard to keep.

Fawcett - We are seeing rising interest in the Captain Marvel titles. Perhaps this is because of the rumoured John Byrne serves for DC or because these are finally becoming recognized as the true classics they are.

Fiction House - Some interest in these, especially the Good Girl stuff and oddities.

SILVER AGE

Marvel - The leader in Silver Age. Spider-Man is still the strongest seller. Mint early issues of Amazing Spidey sell well at over Guide, and the lesser grades move quickly at Guide. #238 and #298 also sell extremely quickly as does any Venom appearance. In new stuff, Spider-Man also leads the pack marginally over the X-books. Some of the McFarlane mania seems to be slacking off but is by no means over with.

X-Men, X-Factor, New Mutants - Sales are burning up on new and back issues. Everything else tends to hang around a little longer. X-Factors sell quickly in all issues. New Mutants are finally moving quickly, especially the Liefeld issues. #100 sold out in a matter of hours, and re-orders sold out quickly. X-Force #1 is going to be very hot, perhaps even outdistancing last year's sales champ, Spider-Man #1. Anticipation is also high for the new X-Men #1 and the X-Factor changeover. This is really shaping up to be the summer of the mutant. The one exception to this trend is Excalibur. Back issue and new issue sales are slow, and there is a general disappointment among fans at their ridiculous storyline. Marvel is either going to have to spice up this book or cancel it and let some very good characters get back to the good books (Nightcrawler is particularly missed).

Wolverine - still selling well in both new and back issues. #10 is the most requested book in the series, and we are getting an increased demand for the mini-series. Marvel Comics Presents is also red hot with the new Windsor-Smith story!

Punisher, War Journal, Armory - Big sellers in new and back issues. Spider-Man #129 is our most asked for and the hardest to find comic from the '70's (except for Iron Fist #14).

Ghost Rider - sells well and has become a staple in the Marvel Line. We always seem to be restocking the back issues. Fans, however, seem to be getting tired of all the crossovers into other titles. Most of these seem to be pretty lame attempts to cross-sell and people are wise to that trick. Crossovers are fine, but not every month. The '70's series are hard to find in any condition and Spotlight #5 and the #1 sell well in high grade at over Guide.

Thor - The new Thor has revived interest in this title, and back issue sales are picking up. Journey Into Mystery appearances sell quickly. We recently sold a VF+ and a VG JIM #83 at Guide as quickly as we put them out. We also have high demand for Thor #411 and #412 which bring us to...

New Warriors - This book is Marvel's unsung success story. It sells briskly every month and back issues are impossible to keep in stock. We have been advising our customers to buy Nova #1 and when someone offers us one for sale, we snap it up quickly. After years in the quarter bocks, these Novas may now be hot property. The same is true for Amazing Spidey annual #22, speedball's series, Firestar's mini-series, Submariner #50 (first Namorita), and, believe it or not, Spider-Man And His Amazing Friends #1 (first Firestar in comics).

Guardians Of The Galaxy - Very good seller with a very promising storyline. Back issues are about as hard to keep as New Warriors. Also, Guardians appearances in other titles are in demand.

Silver Surfer - Marvel's fastest riser. Six months ago it was a middle-of-the-road seller. Now it has a legion of fans and is one of the most requested titles every month. #50 sold as well as any new book we have had in the past few months. We also expect big sales on the Infinity Gauntlet series and all the crossovers. We are also starting to get a large number of requests for Iron Man #55 (first Thanos, Titan, Eros, Mentor, Drax). This book is undervalued and hard to find in high grade due to the white cover - a word to the wise.

Iron Man - Slow in new and back issue sales. Marvel needs to get a regular team on this book to generate some interest. Tales Of Suspense issues are still hot sellers and among some of our most asked for stuff.

Avengers and West Coast - Sales are steadily improving, especially on Avengers. back issue sales are steady, with the most requested issue being Avengers #4, which brings us to...

Captain America - A book that is really beginning to sell well. New issues have always sold very steadily, but now the back issue sales are starting to

Fantastic Four - Slow seller in new stuff, but back issue sales are up, especially the first 40 issues and #48-50. Most requested issues are #4 and #5.

Namor - A very strong seller. If Byrne stays with this book, it could become one of the strongest. We are also happy to see the return of Iron Fist. Back issues of Iron Fist are starting to move again (with the exception of #14, which we cannot keep at any price or condition - our most requested back issue).

Hulk - Our most requested but most improved comic. The stories and art are a pleasure and the sales are starting to reflect it. The new staff is selling big and the back issues with Keown art are outselling even the McFarlane ones. What a turnaround!

Nick Fury, Agent Of SHIELD - Dead in new and back issues with the exception of first series #15 (first Bullseye).

Nam - Slow, but steady in both new and back issues. It surprises me to have to frequently restock the back issues, but that is what I am doing.

Dr. Strange, She-Hulk, Moon Knight - Slow but steady.

Cloak And Dagger, Quasar - Cancelled.

DC - DC's biggest success lately has been the Green Lantern book. This title came back like gangbusters and created a lot of interest in the first series. Sales are very strong on both new and back issues and all appearances. Emerald Dawn II is also selling nicely.

Flash - We are really seeing a strange trend here. The new stuff is a moderate seller in new and back issues, but the Barry Allen Flash series is HOT. We can't keep these in any condition. We credit this to the TV series, but it is strange how people who come in and buy because of the show, people generally not collectors and unfamiliar with the character, know the difference between the two Flashes. The Barry Allen Flash is definitely more popular.

Batman, Detective, Legends Of The Dark Knight - Cooled somewhat, but still very popular. Back issues moving very well and so is the new stuff.

Superman, Adventures Of, Action - Selling well in new and back issues. With Batman out of the way, collectors seem to be rediscovering the Man of Steel. The engagement stuff hasn't hurt either.

New Titans - Sales are steadily climbing in new issues, but back issues are still dead.

Legion '91, Legion Of Superheroes - A small but steady following. JLA, JLE- JLE is the strongest seller of the two mainly because of the art. JLA has slowed, with a lot of gripes about the silly stories. What used to be cute has grown stale.

Gaming Titles (AD&D, Forgotten Realms, etc.) - Very steady sales in both new and back issues. It is surprising how well these comics have done.

Star Trek and Next Generation - Ditto

Animal Man - Slowing down but still steady. #1 is an easy sale at Guide.

Shadow Strikes, New Gods, Captain Atom, Starman - Who?

Dr. Fate - Slow but steady. We are pulling for this one.

Books Of Magic - A very big seller here.

Sandman - A very big seller for a mature horror title. Sales are up around where Swamp Thing was when Moore wrote it. Back issues are impossible to keep.

Swamp Thing, Shade, Demon, Hellblazer - Slow, but with an extremely loyal following.

Lobo - Where is an ongoing series? I've got people asking for it every day. Appearances in other books are helping. We would like to take a minute to soapbox here. For years we have griped about the lame storylines used by both companies to sell their annuals (Atlantis Attacks, Invasion, etc.). Well, it's time to eat our words. The Armageddon 2001 storyline is shaping up to be one of the best in recent memory. So far we have only seen the first three parts but these were very impressive. The Superman and Batman annuals have far outsold their predecessors, and we have yet to talk to a customer who has not liked the story. (Conjectures fly as to the identity of Monarch.) Way to go, DC!!!

Independents - All the independents are suffering from the slow sales that late product will generate, with a few notable exceptions.

Dark Horse - Still the leader among independents. They are turning out quality product reasonably on time. The new Predator series is selling well, as did the first issue of Indiana Jones. Aliens, Predator, and Terminator still sell well in back issues. The final issue of Give Me Liberty also sold well, but what happened to Hard Boiled? Also now falling under the Dark Horse banner is Rocketeer. Back issues are heavily demanded and are selling for well over Guide. We are eagerly anticipating the movie, and expect this trend to only get worse.

Mirage - The Turtles are still selling well, but the lack of a new issue until last week hurt sales somewhat. Back issues still move steadily as does the Archie series.

Valiant - A surprise hit with Magnus, Robot Fighter. If Valiant can produce this comic on a regular basis, they may have a hit on their hands. We are also getting much interest in Doc Solar.

NEC - The Tick is among our most request comics in new and back issues. Now if they can only make good on their promise to get on a regular shipping basis, we will be happy. everyone is also constantly asking for Paul the Samurai #2. Where is it?

Rock-N-Roll Comics - A strong seller for us. Back issues of the first five are impossible to find and we have heard that they are selling at record conventions for well over Guide.

Vortex - This company seems to have hit the jackpot with NASCAR comics. The Daytona comic is due out soon and we expect big sales. The back issues are Bill Elliott and they exist with three different cover prices. According to Vortex, the $1.50 cover price is the most scarce and they are reporting sales of up to $45. In this area, we have seen them sold for around $25. The $2 cover prices is selling for $5-$10, and the $3 cover price for $5.

Well, time to sign off for another report. We hope to have a big summer - it looks like ours is going to be X-tra special! May the X-Force be with you..!!!

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This is an interesting time to write a market report as both we and our customers are currently very active in preparing for the summer season, so we are seeing much activity in all areas of back issue buying and selling. To give readers some perspective on what we're saying here, we would like to note that Champaign/Urbana has a population of about 150,000, and contains a major university. This gives us a very balanced customer base in terms of age and income range.

SILVER AGE DC: In general, DC is more in demand than Silver Marvel right now. There is great interest in the cross-overs of all Golden Age characters, DC war titles are most frequently requested, and we are seeing an increase in the popularity of all DC superhero title issues in the 1950's to 1955 range. On to more specifics:

Action: As with all Superman-related titles, very hot, especially early 1950's issues.

Adventure: Superboy issues are in demand.

Aquaman. #1 is in high demand.

Atom: #1, #29, 36 are the most requested (#29 and #36 are the GA crossovers). Only high grades move.

Batman. Strong and increasing interest in 1950's and the early 1960's issues. #155 (first SA Penguin) is hot.

Brave & Bold. Somewhat slow. There is some interest in Flash crossovers.

Challengers Of The Unknown. Rising interest in the first 20 issues.

Detective: Again, early 1950's issues move well. Sales slightly below Batman sales.

Doom Patrol: Steady and increasing interest. This title seems to be particularly easy to find, however.

Flash: Red hot! Strong demand for #105-151, #175. Especially hot are #105, #110 (Kid Flash), #123, #127, #151 (GA Flash crossovers) and #175 (Superman/Flash race).

Green Lantern: Rapidly rising demand for #1-87. All grades sell well

House Of Mystery: Fair demand for all issues.

House Of Secrets. Moderate demand for the series, with #92 (first Swamp Thing) being red hot. We would like to note that about 3/4 of the copies of #92 that we have seen have some sort of printing error: there are small white specks over the entire cover. This is very noticeable because of the cover's dark colors. the book does exist without these specks.

JLA. Demand has slowed somewhat. Nothing past 346 (first SA Sandman) moves

Lois Lane. Moderate interest for early issues, #70 (first SA Catwoman) is hot.

Metal Men Some demand

My Greatest Adventure: Doom Patrol issues sell briskly in all grades.

Showcase: Flash, Green Lantern, Atom, and Spectre issues are in high demand. #1-64 in general are much requested; others are considerably slower to sell.

Superboy: Strong demand for early 1950's issues

Superman. All Silver Age issues sell fairly well.

Teen Titans: Very Slow.

Wonder Woman: Dead.

World's Finest: Dead except #198, #199 (Superman/Flash races).

SILVER AGE MARVEL: In general, early Silver Age and the 1968 period titles enjoy brisk sales, with books from the 1966-67 range being comparatively slow. Marvel hero vs. hero "battle issues" are currently quite popular here. Breaking it down by title:

Amazing Spider-Man: Holding steady. #1-100 move well at guide.

Avengers: Very slow.

Captain America: Demand is very high for #100 (in all grades). Others are moderate.

Captain Marvel: Some demand for #1

Conan: Dead, even below Guide.

Daredevil: Very slow.

Dr. Strange: No interest at all.

Fantastic Four: Strong demand for #1-112, especially fast movers are #20-50. All sell at about 1.25x current Update.

Incredible Hulk: Demand for #1-6. Others are slow.

Iron Man Minimal demand for series #1 sells well in VF or better shape.

Journey Into Mystery: Moves at Guide.

Silver Surfer: Strong demand for all issues, all grades at 1.25x Guide.

Strange Tales: Very slow. Annual #2 is frequently requested, however, and sells at 3x Guide.

Sub-Mariner: Increasing interest. Currently, #1, #8 (Thing Vs. Sub-Mariner) sell very well.

Tales Of Suspense: Sells acceptably in all grades.

Tales To Astonish: Interest on the rise, especially in #92, #93 (Silver Surfer crossover) and #100 (Hulk Vs. Sub-Mariner).

Thor: Mild interest.

X-Men: Very slow, and seem to be very common.

SILVER AGE GOLD KEY: It's interesting to note that most Gold Key collectors are not buying for investment purposes, thus when a book is sold, it's gone for good. We find this makes these titles costly to stock (there are few sources) yet worthwhile as we get many requests for them.

Star Trek: Hot! Sell at 2X Guide.

Magnus: Considerable interest. Sells well at 1.25X Guide.

Doctor Solar: Small interest.

1970's-RECENT DC: A relatively slow period for DC books, except for very recent books and Kirby 4th World books (which sell quickly at 1.5x Guide).

Animal Man: Has slowed, but still sells acceptably.

Batman: Dead.

Books Of Magic: Very strong. #1: $7.50; #2, #3: $5.

Detective: Dead.

Doom Patrol: Falling off somewhat. Later Morrison issues sell fairly well.

Flash: #50 is hot, selling at $7.50. Others are slow.

Green Lantern: Emerald Dawn II has sparked some interested in ED I. Otherwise slow.

Hellblazer: Getting hot.

Justice League books: Dead.

Legion '89/'91: Lobo issues sell very well, and have sparked interest in the others.

Legends Of The Dark Knight: Very strong. #11 sells well at $5.

Omega Men: Lobo issues have fallen off somewhat.

Sandman: The hottest back issue title out there. Sells instantly.

Shade: Falling off

Swamp Thing: Renewed interest in Alan Moore, Berni Wrightson issues, John Constantine appearances.

Star Trek: First series moves well.

Superman titles. Hot. The exposure the engagement got did exactly what it was supposed to do.

1970's-CURRENT MARVEL: We are seeing an increase in the interest in early 70's Marvel, especially in books containing characters that are currently active and who first appeared in this period, such as Warlock, Werewolf By Night, Iron Fist, Sabretooth, and, of course, Ghost Rider.

Amazing Spider-Man: Early to mid 1970's issues are strong. #129 moves fairly well at slightly below Guide. The McFarlane issues have fallen off and there is little interest in Larson issues.

Astonishing Tales: Strong speculation on Deathlok issues, especially #25.

Avengers: Issue numbers in the 100's are moderate, more recent issues are dead.

Captain America: There is demand for issues #200-300, slower demand for later issues.

Captain Marvel: Increasing demand, especially #25-40.

Defenders Demand for #1, #10. Others are dead. #96 is a Ghost Rider appearance.

Daredevil: A good mover. #131 (Bullseye) is hot at $15, #254 (first Typhoid Mary) an easy sale at $12.

Fantastic Four: Byrne and Simonson issues are moderate sellers.

Ghost Rider (1st series): #1 is extremely hot; others are slowly rising in demand.

Incredible Hulk: The "new Hulk" (issues #376 up) sell well, #340 is also in demand.

Iron Fist: Increasing interest, especially in #14 (first Sabretooth)

Iron Man: Slow except for #55 (first appearance of Thanos) which is highly requested and sells at 4x Guide.

Marvel Comics Presents: Back issue demand seems to stop for a given issue when that particular storyline is over. Currently, Weapon X is hot and sells at $3 per issue.

Marvel Premiere: Warlock, Iron Fist issues in demand.

Marvel Spotlight: #5 is probably the single hottest back issue from the 70's. Others are currently slow, but on the rise.

Namor: Moderate interest.

New Mutants: #87-100 are very hot at 1.5-2x Guide. #87 (first appearance of Cable) sells at $15.

New Warriors: A solid seller. #1,2: $8; #3: $7; #4: $5; #5-7: $4.

Punisher/War Journal/Mini. All good sellers

Silver Surfer: Thanos issues are flying. #34 (re-intro Thanos) $7.

Warlock: Beginning interest.

Wolverine: Hot. Recent issues sell very well.

X-Factor: High demand for Portacio art issues (#63 up). Fair demand for earlier issues.

X-Men: Lee issues are very hot. #94-150 currently sell acceptably.

INDEPENDENT BACK ISSUES OF NOTE:

Alien/Predator books: All sell well. Aliens Vs. Predator #0 is in high demand and sells for $10.

Manga titles: Appleseed, Crying Freeman, all Jademan titles, and Robotech titles lead the way.

Vampire Lestat: A fair seller.

Rocketeer books: Currently much speculation, particularly in Starslayer #2, his first appearance.

TMNT: Small interest at below Guide.

Cerebus: Slow interest in early issues at 75% of Guide.

NEW BOOKS: Contrary to the situation in other areas, new DC sells as well as new Marvel for a.

DC: Anything with Lobo is an instant sellout. The best selling titles in order are: Legends Of The Dark Knight, Sandman, Batman, Green Lantern: Emerald Dawn II, and Detective.

MARVEL: The phenomenon of the year so far is Silver Surfer #50. The embossed silver foil cover and $1.50 price combined to make this a same-day sellout, with readers from distributors being unavailable. A rush order form a wholesaler is currently selling well at $2.50. The best selling regular titles are: Spider-Man (the top selling new title by a wide margin), X-Men, Marvel Comics Presents, Ghost Rider, and X-Factor.

INDEPENDENTS: The best selling new independents sell at levels about 1/2 of our top five Marvel and DC titles in general. The best sellers include: Predator: Big Game, Cerebus, Give Me Liberty, Miracle Man, and Dark Horse Presents.

In closing, we would like to note that while the recent poor performance of the economy didn't really affect sales in terms of volume, the rebounding economy is definitely helping sales by bringing more people into our store and to the conventions we attend.

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Richard W. Gifford, Manager
Wayne R. Gifford, Owner

With the "wartime crisis" concerns behind us, the comic book market seems to be well on its way to achieving a new pinnacle of greatness. Sales on new comics are up by approximately 20% from the previous two month period, and I am sure they will continue to see further increases due, no doubt, to upcoming hot projects slated for the summer. Last summer the hottest book released was, without a doubt, Todd McFarlane's Spider-Man. This year it is highly probably that Marvel will again set record sales, and may very well dwarf their reports of last year. The upcoming release of X-Men number one will certainly achieve this simply because of the wider variety of variations associated with this title, plus the fact that the last issue (available in comic shops only) will have a substantially higher cover price of $3.95. Independent titles and companies have learned, it seems, that if your product is of quality, people will buy it. Thus, plus the recessive period we all just endured, has managed to eliminate those independent creators who were simply producing pulp. DC comics cannot be expected to simply rest on their laurels either, as we'll see this summer with the release of Man Of Steel number one. Now, onto the report.

MARVEL COMICS GROUP

Back Issues: In the last survey I submitted to this journal, I was able to tell grand stories of how anything I had that was in the 12-15¢ range was selling unbelievably well. However, recently we have been experiencing "too much of a good thing." People still demand Silver Age copies of hard to find Marvel and DC titles, but the supply is not nearly as plentiful as it once was. The public seems to be much more aware that old comics are like having money in the bank, and as a result most don't wish to sell. This may cause even further increases in the pricing of these comics, simply due to the lack of supply. Despite all this, however, we have still been experiencing some rather pleasing sales. Recorded sales include: Amazing Spider-Man #14, Fine, $365; Amazing Spider-Man #129, VF, $175; Avengers #4, Fine, $150.

With people becoming despondent over the fact that 12-15¢ titles simply aren't as plentiful as they once were, they have begun to show a keen interest in the 20-30¢, or second generation, Marvel titles. Titles in this range selling well include Amazing Spider-Man, Captain America, Thor, Ghost Rider, and Peter Parker. Interest continues to grow in titles such as Tomb Of Dracula #1 and #50, Werewolf By Night #1 and #15, and offbeat titles such as Astonishing Tales featuring Deathlok and Marvel Presents featuring the Guardians of the Galaxy.

Recent back issues which are proving to be incredibly hot include:

New Mutants issues #87-100 - These are easily some of the hottest contemporary back issues available and may reach levels similar to John Byrne's early X-Men issues, proving Marvel doesn't do any reprints of these soon. Current selling prices are: #87 - $15, #88-91 - $7 each, #92 - $2, and #93-100 - $5 each.

Jim Lee's Uncanny X-Men have not only given this title a major face-lift but are commanding some fairly high prices themselves. #248 (Lee's first on the title) - $12, #256-256 (Psylocke's transformation) - $8, #268 (Lee becomes regular penciler) - $8, #270-275 - averaging $5 each.

Other hot books include: X-Factor #40 (Lesfeld artwork) - $8, Ghost Rider #1 - $18, #5 & #6 - $10 each, Guardians Of The Galaxy #1 - $5, New Warriors #1 - $8, and Incredible Hulk #377 - $6.

Obviously, Punisher remains hot throughout. New Warriors is hot NOW, but let me express a word of weariness concerning the title. In the early 80's, the rage was the up and coming New Teen Titans, but now they sit about gathering dust. I honestly expect New Warriors to suffer a similar fate as well. It is also a distinct probability that X-Force will command higher prices than the upcoming X-Men #1, simply because of the amount of overkill involved with the latter. For a better investment, consider paying more attention to X-Force than X-Men.

New Issues: Consistently hot are: all mutant titles, all Spider-Man titles, Hulk, Captain America, all Punisher titles, Ghost Rider and appearances, and Silver Surfer. In a slump are: Avengers, She Hulk, SHIELD, Excalibur, and Alpha Flight. Three DC.

DC COMICS GROUP

Silver Age DC has been experiencing high demand in our area just as Marvel has! Items in demand still include: Aquaman #1 and the first Aquagirl appearance, scattered Superman issues, and Flash. Attention must be paid to the later Silver Age stuff as well. Comics in mint around the years 1968-71 are experiencing more demand as people continue to realize that these books are becoming less and less available.

Recent back issues which are proving to be incredibly hot for DC include: Omega Men #3 (first appearance of Lobo) - $12; Batman:The Cult #1 - $20, #2-4 - $12 each.

Superman titles seem to be experiencing a re-interest, which is surprising considering it has stayed level since its revamp. All back issues on this title have experienced a 300% mark-up from last Guide and continue to sell! Could this be a repeat of the phenomenon that occurred with Spider-Man last year?

Green Lantern Emerald Dawn and this newest series are very, very hot!!!

There may very well be some major interest brewing in New Teen Titans featuring Deathstroke:The Terminator. Since this character is similar to the Punisher, and he has an upcoming regular title, his scant few appearances in this book may cause the prices to accelerate. If the upcoming title proves extremely popular, then these appearances may be similar to the scattered appearances of Punisher in Spider-Man.

New Issues: Watch for continuing increasing sales on the Superman titles, for we may soon be experiencing...Supermania?!! Consistently hot are: Batman titles, Superman titles, Sandman, Animal Man, Green Lantern, Star Trek titles, and Lobo appearances. In a slump are: Wonder Woman, Doom Patrol, Swamp Thing, and the Justice League titles.

INDEPENDENT COMPANIES

Back Issues: TMNT, Dark Horse affiliated titles, Japanimation, Dark Shadows, and Gold Key Star Trek titles are hot. Watch for upcoming interest in Dr. Solar and Magnus:Robot Fighter.

New Issues: TMNT, Dark Horse affiliated titles, and Japanimation are hot. The reprints of the old EC horror titles are hot, as is the new versions of Magnus:Robot Fighter and the upcoming Solar by Barry Windsor Smith. What's next, the return of Brain Boy?!?

Thank you for your time.

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Frankly, we noted a downturn both in the convention markets and in total retail sales. This slump seemed to reach its low point at the end of the last quarter of 1990. Since then, sales have gone back to pre-recession levels in all of our retail operations, and have, in fact, gone beyond. However, we still see a depressed market overall at most convention sites. Sales are good, but not at the levels we saw during the period covering 1988 through 1989.

At conventions, a disproportionate amount of our sales are newer hot books. We move lots of New Mutants, X-Men, Wolverine, Punishers, and such, while key books and Golden Age trickle in and out of our stocks. The only Golden Age keys of note that we have moved in recent months have been a Superman #1 in fair (restored) and an All Star #1 in very good, both to the same customer. Even Silver Age has slowed considerably over the past six months, with only the high grade books selling at a rapid clip. People at shows over that period have been very choosy, accepting mainly only books that graded out at very fine or better, and even those buyers have been conservative as to pricing.

However, sales in our retail stores have been exceptionally good. Whereas we sell almost exclusively high grade books at conventions, we have been doing a brisk business in comics of every grade, title, and number in our stores.

In both our South Carolina and North Carolina operations, we have noted that books of every grade move well. We keep exceptionally large inventories of back issues in our shops, and the fans know that we usually have the books they are looking for to complete their runs. Thus, we sell lots of Silver Age books in varying grades, moving a good copy of a Silver Age book just as readily as we do near mint copies. We have seen the following trends.

As far as older books are concerned, Amazing Spider-Man is still the leader. We cannot keep any of the Ditko issues in stock, and anything below #140 makes only a brief stop with us before moving into some fan's collection. At almost the same rate, we see any issues of Fantastic Four below #113 selling out as quickly as we can stock them. Again, the grade doesn't seem to matter, as long as they are priced accordingly. Silver Age Avengers are doing well, as are Thor, Strange Tales, and X-Men.

In DC, the big leader in requests seems to be the war titles. Twelve cent issues of Our Army At War, Of Combat, Our Fighting Forces, and Star Spangled War Stories are high demand titles. Of course, ten cent issues of Batman, Superman, and Wonder Woman are fleeting visitors, too, but nothing seems to move as fast in DC as the war books. After several years of waiting, we are finally seeing a movement of collectors toward the Old Justice League book; we find it hard to find and provide early issues of this title.

The principal new trend we are seeing is a massive surge in interest and request for the Marvel titles of the seventies. Such early numbers of titles like Tomb Of Dracula, Defenders, Marvel Spotlight, Ghost Rider and their ilk are hard to locate and very quick to move. We are beginning to see more of these coming out of closets and collections, but not in quantities to keep up with the demand. Since the return of Thanos to Silver Surfer, we cannot keep any of the Thanos issues of Captain Marvel, nor can we seem to supply the hunger for Iron Man #55 and #56 — the first appearance of Thanos. Seventies Marvels are currently a bit of a bargain at Guide prices, so fans should buy up their current wants while prices are relatively low.

As always, we like to deal in some of the more esoteric titles and publishers, and have seen a slight increase in a couple of these. Charltons are doing better, as are the original Classics Illustrated. As far as the Classics are concerned, the edition doesn't seem to matter, just as long as it's from the original series.

On to the recent hot books — here is what seems to be moving in recent material, mainly in the stores, but to nearly the same extent on the road.

All of the Liefeld issues of New Mutants are very hot and do not sit in boxes for long. Issue #87 is also moving briskly at $15 for us, and is still selling strong now that it's a $25 book! Since Jim Starlin took control of the Silver Surfer, we have seen a real surge in demand; new issues are selling at twice last year's totals, and back issues are impossible to keep in stock. The Ghost Rider and Thanos, and seems to have taken its place alongside the old, solid proven workhorses such as Wolverine, X-Men, and Punisher. The Deadly Foes Of Spider-Man is moving well, as is Darkhawk. McFarlane issues of the Amazing Spider-Man continue to sell, but we buy and continue to have more than enough issues of most numbers in stock. The only issues that run on the book that I would consider truly hot are numbers 298-300. His own book, Spider-Man, does surprise us with its consistently good sales and back issue demand — we are having trouble keeping issues #7-10 in stock. The McFarlane run on the Incredible Hulk is in demand, and any Peter David written issue of this book is an easy seller; the appearance of Dale Keown has not hurt, either. The old Longshot mini-series seems to be dead, with little interest, even when offered at sizable discount. To end the recent Marvels, Thor (first New Warriors) #411-412 are moving well at about $7.50 each.

Over at DC we have seen an amazing increase in Superman, and we seem to sell out of every issue. The Death Of Robin series in Batman trickles out, and the Guide seems to have it down right at this point. We still feel sorry for the fans who were rooked by unscrupulous dealers squeezing inflated prices out of that run (we met a mother who paid someone almost $200 for the run during the summer of the Batman movie release!). Robin itself still sells well, as long as it's kept at Guide. The Flash is enjoying a mild increase in sales due to the recently cancelled TV series. Sandman remains a fan favorite, but has levelled off at last. The Emerald Dawn II has proven to be a bit of a disappointment, salewise, and Shade, The Changing Man has plummeted after enjoying a brief run as a high demand book. Animal Man is chugging along, and the changes in writers doesn't seem to have hurt.

As far as the alternative market is concerned, we have seen a general downturn in demand for almost all publishers. Back issues of books that were

once hot are now cool to lukewarm, and even new sales from some of last year's heavy hitters are only fair. dark Horse, which seemed to dominate the market last year, has turned in somerather disappointing numbers for us. Neither of the Frank Miller books from them has proven to be more than a mediocre seller. Fortunately, we ordered conservatively, as the fans seem to be tired of Miller's formula at this point. Even the media-pumped properties such as Aliens, Predator, and Terminator are doing anemically on the racks. All in all, it doesn't look terribly good for the alternative publishers.

We are looking forward to a busy convention season, along with opening our new superstore to complement our existing location in Columbia, South Carolina. With the economy moving out of a recession mode, we are producing a heavy selling season on the convention circuit this summer, and have already seen record sales in our retail locations which can only increase as the summer months come on. We're sure to have some surprising news when the time comes for our next market report.

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James T. Collins, Wayne Stephens, and Tim Florer

I would like to begin by offering a special thanks to all of our customers for making this past year our most successful. We never felt the ill effects of the depression in comic sales due to our loyal customers. There is a huge demand in the Oklahoma City metro area for comics and I see no signs of a decrease in demand. Due to the lack of Golden and Silver Age comics in our area, however, we have been unable to fulfill everybody's want list. Sorry, folks! We are trying to find more.

Alpha Flight: The new issue sales on this book are slow. The only sellers are the Jim Lee issues. They are selling at about triple the Guide price. Speaking of Alpha Flight, isn't issue #51 Lee's first art for Marvel? This should be noted in the Guide.

Avengers and Avengers West Coast: New issue sales dropped drastically after John Byrne left both series. There is no movement on West Coast back issues. Silver Age Avengers sales include a VGF #1 for $345, a FVF #8 for $60, and a FVF #13 for $38.

Batman: All titles are still going strong. Legends Of The Dark Knight is the strongest seller of the three Batman titles. It outsells Batman and Detective by a margin of two to one. We have sold a FVF #171 for $150, a VGF pre-Batman Detective #16 for $185, and a fine copy of #233 for $170.

Captain America: This book moves at a fair pace except for issue #383, which sold out within a few days after arrival. The Captain's appearances in Tales Of Suspense move well at Guide price. Issue #100 of his own series is priced about right but in our area we are selling #'s 101-110 at 30% higher than Guide.

Conan: Is he still breathing? That's funny, you wouldn't know it by the sales here!

Daredevil: There is strong movement on this title in both new and back issues. Frank Miller's issues are going strong. Sales include a fine #1 for $275, and FVF #12 for $27, a NM #158 for $38, and NM #182-184 (Punisher appearances) for $10 each.

Fantastic Four: Except for the Simonson and Adams three-parter, there is no movement on this title.

Flash: There are increased new and back issue sales. Could it be that the television series is finally drawing attention to the comic? A fine copy of Showcase #4 recently sold for $1000.

Ghost Rider: The old series is a slow seller, but the new series is one of our top sellers. The #1 issue sells at $20 and #5 at $10. The #6 issue is moving at $5.

Green Arrow: This title is slow but improving.

Green Lantern: The new series is hot! The #1 issue sells for us at $7.

Emerald Dawn I would fly at Guide if we could keep it in stock. Emerald Dawn II is also a great mover with #1 going for $3.

Hulk: New sales are improving. This is due in part to Peter David's writing. Early in the year, a NM #181 sold for $270.

Iron Man: He must be spending his time with Conan.

Legion '91 and Lobo: The Lobo mini-series was a great success. We hope he gets his own regular series soon. Legion '91 sales are poor because buyers don't realize that Lobo is a member.

Marvel Comics Presents: What a rebirth! It's now our number three selling comic. The Barry Smith Weapon X saga flies off the rack. Rather a brilliant marketing strategy on Marvel's behalf, I'd say! It was nice that they spread it out into an affordable format instead of a graphic novel.

Punisher and Punisher War Journal: Sales have slowed lately, but the title is still hot. The two-part Ghost Rider crossover sold out within a few days. We sold a NM Amazing Spiderman #129 about a month ago for $300. The Punisher Limited Series sells for about $100 a set.

Spiderman: McFarlane's new series is still hot. It is our second best seller. His Amazing Spiderman and Incredible Hulk have slowed down a bit. Will the platinum edition of Spiderman #1 get a price value in the Overstreet Guide? Amazing, Web Of and Spectacular Spiderman are all big movers, but Spiderman outsells them three to one. A fine copy of Amazing Fantasy #15 went for $1000.

Superman: There is yet life in the man of steel! Adventures Of Superman, Action Comics and Superman back issues are a bit slow except for #50 at $15. New sales, however, have been incredible. We look for Man Of Steel #1 to be big, also.

Thor: There is nothing happening on this title.

Wolverine: This is another big one! Back issues fly at double Guide. We look for new sales to break records this summer as the relationship between Wolverine and Sabretooth is finally revealed.

X-Men: Jim Lee has returned as this series back to the number one position. It is consistently our best seller. We look for the early Jim Lee X-Men to increase in value like McFarlane's Amazing Spiderman did a few years back. X-Men #248 moves at $20 already. This mutant madness promises to continue throughout the year with the release of X-Force and X-Men #1.

Independent/alternative titles move poorly in this area. The only exceptions are the Dark Horse, Aliens, and Predator Comics and Innovation's Vampire Lestat.

We congratulate DC and Marvel on some extremely brilliant marketing techniques. The use of alternate covers on second printings makes them more collectible and thus increased our sales. DC's use of the media hype over the Kent/Lane engagement increased sales on all Superman titles. Keeping the identity of the Monarch a secret has had our store buzzing about the Armageddon 2001 titles. Marvel cards are still bringing in the customers. the best marketing technique has been the lower prices. The $1 comics fly out of our stores while high-priced graphic novels sit on the shelves

Thanks, Mr. Warren, for allowing us the chance to discuss the comic market in our area.

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Craig Barnett, Owner
Ken Gooler, Wealth of Information

Howdy, this is the beginning of the busy season for us here, as I get to travel a bit to attend the Seattle and Portland conventions and at the same time open another store and do all that work around the house I have been putting off all winter (I guess that's why ibuprofen comes in 250 count containers). Someday I'm going to apply for a social life.

Anyway, on to the market report. New comic sales are still on the increase with more and more issues selling out. This must be true for many of you, as getting reorders on mainstream books seems to be harder to harder as we compete for the few copies that the distributors have left over. The only "bad" news I have to report is a slowing in back issue sales on the higher priced comics (those $20 or more).

In this report I only picked titles to report on that had a 10% or more increase in sales, or for some other reason were noteworthy.

Since the last update was written in January, the percentage of increase or decrease noted on any particular title is figured from that month.

DC comics of note: The Armageddon summer is off to a strong start with the Superman annual selling our rather quickly and the Batman annual following close behind. The book which is the prelude to the series, Armageddon 2001, curiously enough, did not sell as well as the first two annuals. It will be interesting to try and track the sales of the DC annuals to see if people will follow the loose story line into titles they do not normally buy even though they did not buy the "anchor" book.

Sales on Action, Adventures Of Superman, and Superman have all increased 20%, although back issue sales have remained slow.

Batman, Detective, and Legend Of The Dark Knight continue to sell well as new issues, but there is little movement in the back issue department.

Books Of Magick was a big hit here, with the first three issues selling out. Reorders are just now beginning to trickle in, and they are doing well.

Challengers Of The Unknown was a disappointment. There was a lot of interest in the reworking of this team, but sales on the first issue were very

slow. Many people picked up the book but put it back on the racks after flipping through it. Sales have deteriorating issue to issue.

Green Arrow and Green Lantern have both had sales increases of 10% on new issues. Green Lantern Emerald Dawn II is outselling its parent title, but the buying frenzy that accompanied the first Emerald Dawn is not there.

The Justice Society was an incredibly slow mover but it sold out in six weeks.

Kid Eternity was a surprisingly slow seller here. I had fully expected it to sell to the Sandman/Hellblazer people but many passed it by due to the price. A few who bought the first issue did not buy the second, complaining of an incoherent story. Oh, well, I liked it.

Shade The Changing Man has increased in sales by about 10% after several months of decline.

Sales on DC comics overall have increased about 7% on new issues and back issues have remained the same.

Marvel comics of note: Akira sales have increased 40% and back issues sell as quickly as I can get them. The only reason that I can think of is that this is due to the Akira movie and the publicity surrounding its release to theatres and then to video.

Avengers and Avengers West Coast have both had minor increases in sales in the past few months. Back issue sales, other than a few odd Silver Age issues, are nonexistent.

Darkhawk is still selling strongly with back issues moving briskly.

Deadly Foes Of Spiderman was a big seller here with the first issue selling out and the second issue coming close.

The Deathlok mini reprint series is a hit. This one surprised me. I had to reorder heavily on the first and second issues. If the way that this reprint is selling is any indication of the speculation that will take place on the new series, it could very well be a big hit. Astonishing Tales #25, Deathlok's first appearance, could really take off in a major way.

Ghost Rider continues to increase in new and back issue sales, with both being up about 10%. The current crossover craze where Ghost Rider and the Punisher would sell any book they appear in seems to be on a slow decline. The books in which they appear still sell 30 to 75% more, but not too long ago it was 50 to 100% more. It is possible that the saturation point of those two characters is close.

The Incredible Hulk is moving up once again with new and back issue sales up about 20%.

Iron Man new issues are up 20%. There is no movement of back issues, however.

Weapon X in Marvel Comics Presents continues its move up in sales with very strong demand for back issues of this series within a series.

Sleepwalker: DOA.

The big surprise this month is Thor. Yes, I said Thor. New issue sales are up an astonishing 70%. Granted that the previous sales level was that of Doom Patrol, She Hulk and SHIELD --- but that is still heavy growth. The increase is due to the "new Thor" and has been building for several months. The trick will be to hold those new readers.

Tom Lyle Avenger: sanctioned for your protection and mass market appeal. It worked: the first issue sold out and each consecutive issue sells very well.

Wolverine continues to sell better and better each month. There has been a 15% increase in new issue sales and continued heavy sales in the back issue department.

There has been an increase of 20% in X-Factor and 25% in X-Men new issue sales. Right now there does not seem to be an end in sight for increasing demand for the new issues and recent back issues of these books.

Independents of note: Indians Jones and Predator Big Game are probably the two best selling independents right now, but then, you already knew that.

Magnus Robot Fighter was a first-day sellout with no hope of reorders. What surprised me with this book was that it sold to younger readers as well as people who remembered it from their childhood. From the reports that have come back, it seems that everyone liked it. I hope Valiant can do the same with Doctor Solar. I don't know the licensing arrangements Valiant had made with Western, but if they now have an "in" with them, there is an incredible amount of material from the Gold Key catalogue which could be updated and expanded upon. Good luck. One thing that I thought odd was the lack of interest in the original series. It seems that the adults that bought the new Magnus already had copies of the original series, and the younger people who bought the new series don't care about reading the original. A graphic novel might help.

One item as a sideline, if I may, is the listing of the estimated amounts in existence of key books in the Overstreet Big Guide. How were these numbers arrived at --- what was the basis for the estimates? Seeing that five copies of a book are known to exist is neat and there is a concrete basis for that number. But an estimate for 1900 copies of X-Men #1 with 60 in mint is potentially misleading. Theoretically, the number of X-Men first issues that exist are equal to the print run of the issue minus the issues that you know have been destroyed. While I realize that many issues were lost, destroyed, or thrown away, we don't know how many, nor do we have a firm basis upon which we can accurately place an estimate. I also feel that an estimated number could have an adverse effect on the price of those books noted. A number which seems high may cause a lack of interest, while a low number may create an artificial demand based solely upon the estimate.

Overall the new comic market remained strong in the first quarter of the year, with increasing sales during a recession without the benefit of any blockbuster books from DC or Marvel. This strong market should bode well for a summer filled with potential best sellers.

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Greetings to all from the sunny South. It's been a while, and we've been super busy getting ready for the summer convention season. As I write this (May 1), things have started to pick up overall. We are still getting a lot of material sent to us for sale, but our sales have also picked up. I am almost devoid of all post-1980 books and am not restocking.

70's: As expected, there is a lot of interest in 1970-1976 books. Silver Age (especially Marvels) have become so expensive so rapidly that people are looking at this time period for possible investments. Collectors of recent material who wish to start collecting older comics are faced with purchasing very low grade Silver Age or looking towards 70's books books printed in 1976 are now 15 years old, which seems to be a "magic" number to enhance a comic's collectibility. I have heard a lot of statements along the lines of "Peter Parker #1 is exactly where Iron Man #1 was a few years ago in the Guide." While this statement is true, remember when comparing late 60's and late 70's books that mass buying and hoarding didn't really start "til the late 70's. The attrition rate on Iron Man #1's is much greater than that of Peter Parker #1 or even She Hulk #1. It is not necessarily a given fact that PP #1 will become another Iron Man #1, as there are thousands of more copies available and MOST of them will be in high grade. We have sold three NM/M copies of Peter Parker #1 for $40, $45 and $50 over the last four months.

Other than PP, the two most requested 70's Marvels are Astonishing Tales #25 (first Deathlok) and Iron Man #55 (first Thanos). As also might be expected, the Starlin Captain Marvel books, Avengers Annual #7 and Marvel Two-In-One Annual #2, and---to a lesser degree---Warlock #7's 9-15 are showing up on a lot of want lists. We sold two copies of AS #25 at $15 and $17.50, a F+ Iron Man #55 for $15 and a NM/M run of all the Starlin Captain Marvels at 2.0X the big Guide. We are now out of all the above.

Other sought-after Marvels in this time period are Iron Man ($18) #47 (origin issue), Iron Man ($12) #50, Marvel Presents (Guardians Of The Galaxy issues) 2.5X Guide, Champions ($8) #1, Tomb Of Dracula #1 ($20) and #50 ($5), all the monster reprint titles, Werewolf By Night, Ghost Rider (of course) --- #1 ($40), #2 ($20), #'s 3-5 ($15 each), #'s 6-10 ($10 each) [all NM], Giant-Size Super Heroes #1 ($20), Giant-Size Super Stories #1 ($10), most of the other Giant-Size issues at Guide to 200% above, Marvel Spotlight #5 ($50 - NM), #'s 6-11 ($20 each NM), Marvel Two-In-One #1, 5 ($10 each), Marvel Presents #3 ($10), #4-12 ($7.50 each), Marvel Premiere #15 ($15), Special Marvel Edition #15 ($12), Marvel Feature #1-12. Defenders #'s 1-20 and Conan #'s 1-24 are showing up on want lists, but only for NM copies.

DC 70's books continue to be in demand also, with Kirby Fourth World titles far and above leading the way. Jonah Hex #1 and his first appearance (All Star Western #10) are the two most requested non-Kirby books. His appearances in Weird Western Tales also are sought after. 100-page DC's like Detective #'s 438-445, Superman #252, 292, 278 and 284, and Batman #'s 254, 256-259 and 261 are all bringing 1.5-2.0X Guide in NM. Also, before DC switched from 15¢ to regular 20¢ issues, they ran 52-page issues at 25¢ with new stories in front and back-up reprints. Every title had nine or ten of these issues, and all are being sought after in NM. What copies we have found, we've sold out of rapidly at 2X Guide.

SILVER AGE: Marvel---Spiderman is still #1. amazing Fantasy #15 is pulling away in price from Spidey #1. Literally every issue up to #60 is on some want list. At this time, #3, #5, #16, #19 and #51 top the lists, but all are in demand. Recent sales: #1 VG- (color fading) - $700, AF #15 G/VG (major color touch) - $700, #2 FN/G - $150, #4 FN+ - $60, #9 VG - $100, #14 F- $200, #15 VF - $250, #30 VF+ - $80, #50 VF+ - $165.

Other Marvels are sought after, too. The only surprise is a recent upswing of demand for X-Men #'s 1-50. We have literally sold out of this title in all grades by pricing it at slightly below Guide. Recent sales of other Marvels: Strange Tales #100 VF+ - $65, #110 VG/F - $100, #114 G - $20, #115 VF - $145, #116 VF/NM - $50, #117 NM/M - $75; Daredevil #1 F- $350, #7 VF - $100, #'s 16 & 17 VF+ - $75 each; Captain America #100 VG - $70, VF - $175; Iron Man and Sub-Mariner #1 NM/M - $150; Fantastic Four #3 Fr - $75, #4 G - $100, #55 VF - $35, #100 NM - $40; Incredible Hulk #1 VG w/ad page missing - $250, #180 VF+ - $40, #181 F/F+ - $100; Journey Into Mystery #83 G - $150, #112 VF/NM

- $65; Silver Surfer #1 VF/NM - $220, #4 F - $65, #4 VF+ - $165, #7 NM - $60, #14 VF/NM - $30; Sub-Mariner #1 VF- $80; #8 VF/NM- $20; Tales Of Suspense #39 VG - $400, #50 VG - $65; Tales To Astonish #35 G - $100, #44 VG+ $45, F - $65, #57 VF - $50, #70 VF/NM - $65; X-Men #4 VG - $70, #6 F+ - $65, #9 VF - $100, #11 VF- $60, #'s 47-63 NM - $40 each.

As scarce as Marvels are in high grade, they are plentiful compared to pre-1962 DC's, and especially those from 1957-1959. These three years are extremely tough. As far as key issues go, most in demand are Showcase #'s 4, 8 , 34, 20, 15, 22-29, 35 and 75; Brave And Bold #'s 34-36, 28, 42, 55, 61 and 62; Justice League #'s 1, 21, 22, 29, 30, 32, 38, 46 and 47; World's Finest #94; Aquamas #'s 1-10; Hawkman #'s 1-5, 9 and 19; Green Lantern #'s 1, 13, 20; Flash #'s 105-151, 170 and 173; Superman #199; Atom #'s 10-10 and 29; Wonder Woman #105; Hawk & Dove #1; and Creeper #1. Everyone and their brother is looking for crossover issues, not only of DC characters but SA characters as well (SA Flash #1, SA O.L. crossovers, etc.) The Flash/Superman race issues are red hot, bringing upwards of 5X Guide. All Neal Adams work is showing up on want lists, but only in NM. I omitted Mystery In Space. The early Adam Strange issues are a bit pricey, but later issues, especially #'s 75 and 87-90 are red hot at 2X Guide. I also omitted Tales Of The Unexpected #40 — a vastly overlooked, under-valued and highly sought after issue. I cannot remember seeing a nice copy and probably have seen fewer than 10 in any grade over the last 20 years. Recent sales include Batman #200/NM- at $130, Showcase #27-29 NM- at $1,050, Atom #1 NM - $750; Hawkman #1 VF with detached cover - $115; Showcase #8 VF- at $1,250 (a steal at this price); Showcase #4 G - $600; Showcase #55 F - $35, #60 VF - $65, #73 VF/NM - $50, #75 F - $20; Showcase #34 VG - $145; Green Lantern #40 VF/NM - $200; Flash #109 NM - $275, #123 VG/F- $125, #137 F/VF- $75, #151 VF- $25; Brave And Bold #34 VG - $90. See my list in this Update for the GA appearances.

GOLDEN AGE: Still pretty much Timely and DC for action. Batman/Detective/Joker covers still sell in all grades easily. All the Timely war covers are sought after. Any male character DC or Timely sells in some capacity in high grade. Even a "nothing" book like Superboy #16 in NM/M sold for $225, and we had three other people order it after it was sold. Other sales: Detective #85 VG/F - $200; Batman #30 G/VG - $125; All Winners #1 Fr/G - $350, #6 NM - $675, Captain Marvel #82 VF/NM - $75; Captain Marvel, Jr. #1 G - $135; Wonder Woman #23 VG - $65, #28 G - $35, #45 G/VG - $50; Action #35 Fr - $50, #45 G - $75: Superman #50 VG/F - $125; Marvel Mystery #68 VG - $90, #90 G/VG - $65; Sub-Mariner #3 F - $90; and Human Torch #16 VG/F - $145.

I am extremely pleased to say more people are looking for high grade Dells than at any time over the past three years, especially Dell Giants. While not technically Golden Age, some—like Lady And The Tramp—are pre-Silver Age. Four Colors under $50 sell extremely well. Ducks are slow but steady.

Last item— Gold Keys. It appears Gold Keys are almost universally popular with Silver Age collectors of all kinds. By-and-large, the TV series books are inexpensive, and many, especially the animation series are very hard to find in any grade, much less in NM. Showing up on many want lists are Tasmanian Devil, Dark Shadows, Yellow Submarine, Man From Uncle, Lost In Space, I Spy, Flintstones, Jetsons, The Prisoner, Top Cat, Invaders, Kind Leonardo, Rocky And Bullwinkle, Secret Agent, Captain Nice, Yogi Bear and My Favorite Martian. These covers are fondly remembered by the same folks who have driven Marvel prices through the ceiling.

Take care and drop by our tables and say hello at any conventions at which you see us.

The Funny Papers
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Kelli Stanley

Well, an entire war has been fought since the last report. So much can happen in the span of a few months! I'd like to add a hearty "welcome home - job well done!" to the servicemen and women who participated in Desert Storm. Heroes aren't found only in the comics! The economy is slowly recovering from a major slump. Though recession-proof in many ways, the comics business has definitely been affected. How? Read on, True Believer!

NEW COMICS: This is the area least affected by the recession. Customers did cut down on their new titles, but they mainly targeted extra copies, independents and prestige format books (the higher priced stuff). As we rotate toward what promises to be a glorious four color summer, the economy is picking up slightly, and, while I doubt the overall market will be at the level it was last year, new comics sales and excitement should be as strong as ever. This is due, in large part, to skillful summer marketing campaigns by both major companies.

Marvel: I'm still "marvel-ing" (ouch!) over that esteemed company's use of metallic covers and hot artist hype. Marvel is definitely dominating the market this quarter with their X-travaganza of marketing ploys and new titles! Liefeld, Lee & Larsen (shouldn't all those L's be working on Superman?) are red hot and getting hotter. Even second printings of New Mutants #100 and X-Men #275 (razzed up by the gold cover) sold out, while Thor #433 (purple metallic title) did likewise. That issue of Thor was severely underordered because no one at the Merry Marvel Marketing Society told us about it. Watch for it! A forgiveable glitch in an otherwise sterling performance by Marvel. The best, I feel, is yet to come! X-Force! Wonder Man! X-Men! And, never say " 'Nuff printed!"

Hot Marvels: These are the hottest of the hot! Spider-Man (still head honcho, thanks to the great "Perceptions" storyline), X-Men, X-Factor (in the words of Raphael, "X-cellent!"), Ghost Rider (though somewhat overexposed, his own title is on fire - how many times can you say the Johnny Blaze storyline. Watch for the much anticipated glow-in-the-dark #1(!), Silver Surfer, Incredible Hulk, Marvel Comics Presents: Weapon X (outsells the Ghost Rider/Wolverine storyline by 50%), and the new kids on the block, Darkhawk and Sleepwalker, both selling very, very well. Other Marvels of interest are the Deathlok Specials (I understood these, thinking "who will want a reprint?" Boy, was I wrong!) and Deadly Foes of Spider-Man, which outsells Amazing Spider-Man by about 20%. Look out for Infinity Gauntlet! It'll be up here, too.

Strong Sellers: Wolverine (will climb back into the winners circle with the upcoming Sabretooth storyline), Punisher, Punisher War Journal (ol' skul chest's sales have been slowing of late, but the roll toward Punisher #50 and the new War Journal covers should pick him back up), Captain America, Guardians Of The Galaxy, New Warriors (guest-appearances generally boost sales on these two titles by about 50%), Amazing Spider-Man (funding for the big 350 - but we'll miss you Erik!), Fantastic Four (et tu, Walt?), Black Panther, Panther's Prey, Namor (a new Byrne post X-Men record?), Avengers West Coast, Thor (#432 picked sales up, but not as much as I'd hoped), Daredevil (Ann Nocenti's departure also boosted the demand of many adult readers, but "commercial" x-overs prompted an overall rise in sales), Marvel Annuals.

Respectable Sellers: Avengers, Excalibur (where, oh where, is Alan Davis?), Conan, Footkiller (lateness and depressing realism killed excitement), Dr. Strange (the Ghost Rider x-over was an instant sellout, in both formats), Mighty Mouse (can anyone tell me why Marvel is cancelling Mighty Mouse! It outsells All!)

Major Disappointments: Alpha Flight and Robocop have practically done a belly-up. Marvel needs to shoot internet buck into these titles. Nightcat was a big flop for us. Where's the MTV exposure? Where's the top 10 hit? How does she fight crime in that costume, anyway?

DC Comics: Though not as strong as last quarter, DC is holding its own. The Robin miniseries was a mega-hit, and has returns to Batman should send that comic skyrocketing. Lobo is performing well in his x-overs. His team-up with the Demon was a very quick sell-out, and his anticipated mini-series will be hot! Superman titles are still as super as ever, and DC's media campaign about Jimmy Olsen's upcoming unemployment should fuel even more interest. The Armageddon 2001 x-over series is extremely hot and generating lots of excitement (who is Monarch? I think I know, but I'm not telling!). Watch for Deathstroke, the Terminator and developments in the New Titans. DC has some explosive product coming soon and they will give Marvel some truly Distinguished Competition.

Hot DC's: Armageddon 2001 and annuals (as of this writing, only the Batman and Superman annuals have hit the stands, but both were huge sellers. The Armageddon 2001 #1 is in constant demand as a back issue as well.). New Titans (a title on fire! A Titans hit! May give X-Men a run for the money), all Superman titles (Dan Jurgens is getting some deserved recognition), Green Lantern: Emerald Dawn II, Books Of Magic (one of the season's few prestige format hits), Batman: Legends Of The Dark Knight, Batman (especially #462, set in San Francisco. A local favorite!), Sandman and Doom Patrol. Flash has been zooming out of the store lately. #50 was a big success and interest seems to be holding. Hopefully, the TV show will be renewed as it has undoubtedly helped to create excitement.

Strong Sellers: Detective (very bright, striking covers have helped this title of late), Hellblazer (the Constantine Cancer Crisis has increased interest), Justice Society Of America (it's nice to see the old guys sell), the Justice League titles (JLE is still outselling JLA, DEFINITELY due to Bart Sears' artwork), the Star Trek books (soon to be on the "hot" list with the much anticipated Mondala Imperative).

Respectable Sellers: Green Arrow (his 50th anniversary is coming up), Legion Of Super Heroes, Hawkworld, Shade, Demon (a boost by Lobo helped out ol' Horn-head), Who's Who (outsells Marvel's version by about 50%), Kid Eternity (#1 sold well, but otherwise rather disappointing).

Major Disappointment: Twilight. It picked up interest in Tommy Tomorrow's old Showcase appearances, but otherwise rode off into the sunset.

Independents: The first to suffer the axe in troubled economic times. The Big Two ate most of the recession dollars this quarter, leaving very little for the smaller publishers. There were, however, some truly hot books and strong sellers.

Hot Titles: Magnus Robot Fighter! Valiant proved that a mainstream superhero comic aggressively marketed will sell very well indeed,

disappointed that Eeeman did only the cover, not the interior.

Strong Sellers: M (incredible art by Mutch), Millenium's The Mummy (another Lesta!?), Vampire Lestat, Clive Me Liberty (delays, however, don't help), I Am Legend and Torchy (classic reprint series), Gunbird (Viz's first color manga). Disney was a constant seller and we anticipate its Rocketeer comics to jetpack off the shelves.

Biggest Disappointment: Russ Cochrane's "X-tra Large EC's." Gladstone was selling very well, and thanks to the new format and price, sales have been halved. Bring back the regular size!

BACK ISSUES (WE'VE PRESENT). The overall trend is to find a bargain! Collectors are searching through undervalued 70's comics trying to locate first appearances and "undiscovered" key issues. Back issue sales as a whole are down only slightly from last year, but WHAT customers are buying has changed. The 70's feeling frenzy has increased since last report, leaving many 80's books and expensive key issues languishing in neglect, unless priced at Guide or lower. I lowered all the McFarlane Spider-Man's to straight Guide and they sold like crazy! Of course, recent back issues still sell very well, and demand for artists' earlier work (Jim Lee, Whilce Portacio, Rob Liefeld) is continual.

Marvel (New): X-Factor #63 is in constant demand! My last copy sold for $7.50. New Mutants #87 - $20 (signed copy), X-Men #248 - $20, New Mutants #90-91 - $10 each, Ghost Rider #1 (first) - $25, Ghost Rider #1 (second) - $10, Incredible Hulk #377 (first) - $7, New Mutants 100 (first) - $6, Mr. Mist #75 (first) - $5. Jim Lee X-Men, Alpha Flight sell for comparable multiples of Guide, as do Liefeld's work on the New Mutants. X-Factor is picking up from X-tinction Agenda onward and selling at 2-3X Guide.

Marvel (Old): Astonishing Tales #25 (first appearance of Deathlok) - extremely hot! Sold a VFN copy for $15 the same day I got it in. My one and only Iron Man #55 (first appearance of Thanos) sold for 2X Guide in VG+. The requests for this issue have been increasingly dramatically, so I expect the price to escalate further (especially after Infinity Gauntlet). Amazing Spider-Man still hot, with stock 70's and early 80's issues selling at about 200% above Guide. Can't keep titles like Champions, early Defenders, Marvel Spotlight, Marvel Premier, Marvel Presents, etc. in stock in high grade. Even at 1.5 - 2X Guide, some issues of these comics are in such demand that they're still considered bargains. Collectors want them before they get even more expensive. Regular sellers: Champions #1 (NM $10), Iron Fist #1 (NM $20), Defenders #2 (VFN $6).

DC (New): Lobo #1 (first print $10), Robin #1 (first print $12), Superman #50 (1st 115), Action #662 ($6), Sandman #1 ($30 and keeps going up), Doom Patrol #19 ($20), Robin #2 ($5), and Flash #51 ($20).

DC (Old): Same story! I sold an entire run of Omac for 2X Guide, Kamandi #1-10 for same multiple. Jack Kirby's 70's material moves very quickly at 1.5-2X Guide. The first Flash series is still selling well, as are the Green Lantern/ Green Arrow books (1.5X Guide). Collectors are already searching for early appearances of Deathstroke, the Terminator. I anticipate a fast rise in prices on his New Teen Titans appearances after his own title debut.

Other: Aliens, Predator, and all combinations thereof are always in demand. They constantly sell at about 1.5X Guide. The Aliens issues are likewise hot, though the sequel didn't foster the jump in prices the first movie did. Creepy, Eerie, and Vampirella have been picking up interest of late and generally sell for 1.25 - 1.5X Guide. On the rise are Rocketeer issues. These will probably be very, very hot after June 21st. Also in great demand here are Mad Magazine. I simply can't keep them in stock at Guide prices! Issues from the late 50's to mid-70's move so well it's ...crazy? No, Mad! Perhaps this title could be included in the Update.

SILVER/GOLDEN AGE: The recession has hit this area the hardest, at least for us. The NUMBER of sales we've made has remained constant - but the DOLLARS generated have fallen. Collectors are turning to lower grade, cheaper books and leaving the higher grade key issues on the wall. We've sold loads of low grade comics of every type and title - and at prices ranging from Guide to 3X Guide. Obviously, Silver Age material is still on the move, and still going up - but the percentage gap between low grade and medium grade is closing. A good copy of Amazing Spider-Man priced at 1.5X Guide will sell quickly; a VG copy at the same multiple won't. Contributing to the slump are lots of panicky collectors wanting to sell their collection. We've had so many offers in the last few months that we've had to be very selective in what we buy. It truly is a buyer's market out there and I don't see the situation changing for a few months, at least.

Marvel: DC has outpaced the big "M" in sales, mainly due to the Marvel books reaching a price peak. Still, some representative sales: Amazing Spider-Man #1 (FR $350), Captain America #100 (VFN $160), Marvel Tales #1 (PR/FR $12), Tales Of Suspense #53 (GD+ $13), Shield #2 (FN $8.50), Fantastic Four #30 (VG $19.25).

DC: We sold quite a few "secondary" titles like: House Of Mystery, Tomahawk, Tales Of The Unexpected, etc. Three nice runs of 1950's low-grade war comics (Our Fighting Forces, All American Men Of War and Star Spangled War Stories) sold at 3X guide. Adventure, Superboy, Jimmy Olsen and Lois Lane sold very well at 1.5X Guide. Flash sold quickly, with most of our key issues going first. Flash #110 (GD $60), ILA #9 (VG+ $65), Flash #116 (VG- $20), Brave And The Bold #50 (VG $17), House Of Mystery #145 (VG $19.50), Superman #199 (VG $9).

Other: Lots of Movie/TV titles sold terrifically at 2X Guide. Flying Nun #1 (VG- $5), Dobie Gillis #25 (VG $10), Jetsons #30 (FN- $15), Gidget #1 (VG- $6.50). Obscure horror/sci-fi titles moved very well for us as well: Uncanny Tales #24 (VG $12), Forbidden Worlds #41 (VG $6), Unknown Worlds #49 (VG $7.50).

Golden Age remained hard for us to acquire except for some Disney's and other humor books which sold well at Guide: Four Color #214 (VG- $20), Walt Disney's Comics & Stories #24 (Pr/FR $11), Dodo And The Frog #91 (FN- $11), Archie's Pals And Gals #4 (FN $40). Overall, the demand for high grade material is still out there, but not indiscriminately so as it was last year. In general, people are still buying - but only what they can afford, which means low grade or undervalued books.

FINAL COMMENTS: Comic books are not completely "recession proof", though the impact on sales may be less than that of other retailing businesses. We fully expect the market to be a strong one this summer, due in part to aggressive marketing by comic companies and a growing acceptance of the industry by mainstream media and society. Confidence is the key to economic prosperity, however, so let's all keep our fingers crossed and take a page from Norman Peale: think positive! Have a great summer, see you next time, and keep reading those funny books!

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Mike McCulloch

Hello everyone!!! Greetings once again from (sunny?) northern California. You know, it's kinda hard to believe, but this November we will have been in the retail comic business for 20 years. It most assuredly has had its ups and downs, but through it all we've managed to keep seven stores on the map. That fact in and of itself is the one thing we're most proud of, but enough about us. We're here to talk funny books, so...TO SPECIFICS!

NEW COMICS: Silver Surfer #50 just hit the shelves and Marvel has done it again. The foil cover outsold all other issues by about 5 to 1 company wide. Some stores sold less, some stores more, but all in all it was a smash success. Let's hope that Infinity Gauntlet and its corresponding crossovers can tap some of the Silver Surfer's economic power.

The Weapon X storyline in Marvel Comics Presents seems to have renewed interest with the old Barry Smith fans but missed cashing in on the speculator market. It's kind of hard to justify eight pages of Wolvie for a $1.25 cover price.

We can't continue long in the Marvel category without mentioning those incredible X-titles. X-Men sales have been astonishing. X-Factor has been nothing sort of phenomenal, and New Mutants #100 was an instant sellout. With X-Force almost upon us, mutant-mania is running rampant. Across the board sales are up at least 75%.

Spiderman sales are holding steady and its back issues are picking up steam as well.

Deadly Foes Of Spiderman was a surprise success, appealing to the Amazing Spiderman crowd pretty well.

Speaking of Amazing Spiderman, its sales stay about the same, but let's see if it can maintain its current pace with Mr. Larson leaving in a few issues.

Wolverine is also a constant seller and we can never keep its back issues in stock.

Deathlok was very successful also, and comic fans are eagerly awaiting the unlimited series. The strange thing about this series is that the cheaper reprints sold as well as the expensive first prints. That should tell some publisher somewhere something about the "price barrier" that retailers have been yelling about for years.

Incredible Hulk has been moving right up the list of Marvel hot sellers as fans have accepted the big green guy back with open arms.

Namor has been selling better of late as fan anticipation for the return of Danny Rand and Iron Fist reaches a crescendo. We just found out that Iron Fist is really only a Super Skrull, so don't bank on the sales trend continuing.

Ghost Rider is hot! The return of Johnny Blaze has pre-empted any dwindling sales as fans are snapping them up.

A favorable mention should be given to the Shield title as it would probably sell better if fans knew that Jackson Guice artwork decorates the insides.

Other Marvel titles that deserve a pat on the back are: New Warriors, Iron Man, Captain America, Guardians Of The Galaxy, and Punisher W.J.

Marvel titles that need a shot in the arm: Alpha Flight, Avengers, Avengers W.C., Excalibur, Sleepwalker, Toxic Avengers, and X-Men Classics.

Sandman heads up the list of DC hot sellers. In Berkeley it outsells its closest competition by a two to one margin thanks to its appeal to the general public.

By far the biggest hit so far this last quarter was Books Of Magic. It sold incredibly well even with the $3.95 cover price.

As far as crossovers go, Armageddon 2001 seems to be doing the

trick. DC annuals haven't sold this well in a while.

Green Lantern Emerald Dawn II came through with flying colors. We were a little apprehensive about it maintaining the quality of the former series. It also seems to have renewed interest in the unlimited series as well, so no complaints from this corner.

In our northern stores, Legends Of The Dark Knight seems to be the title of choice, and with DC keeping the quality up, sales should stay pretty steady. Batman comes in a close second, with Detective following up the Dark Knight trilogy.

The Superman titles have been on a steady increase with the romance of the post-crisis Clark and Lois finding a legion of new fans.

Hellblazer has again become a strong seller. With the new British team coming on and the anti-smoking storyline we don't expect sales to slow down any.

The Demon title sells well with Bisley-Lobo covers, but it's going to take a little more than that to make it a constant seller.

Rounding out the list of DC hot sellers is Legion Of Super-Heroes, Legion '91, all Star Trek titles, Swamp Thing, and all Justice League titles.

Hawkworld doesn't have nearly the appeal it once did now that Truman's gone. Shade The Changing Man's sales have cooled off as well.

Animal Man, New Gods, Flash, Hawk And Dove as well as Starman all are in need of the proverbial shot in the arm.

When it comes to hot independents, Dark Horse is holding all the cards. Indiana Jones sold very well and Predator Big Game is at par for the course. Back issues of all Aliens and Predator books warrant a 25% above Guide price.

Vampire Lestat is a hot seller in any printing and both of the companions are highly sought after.

Magnus Robot Fighter and Solar Man Of The Atom are a hit! We expected them to do well, we just didn't expect this kind of demand.

BACK ISSUES: The inexpensive 70's issues are hotter than ever. Champions, Ghost Rider, Defenders, Invaders, any Kirby fourth world along with Marvel Premiere, Marvel Presents, Amazing Adventures and Jungle Action are all in demand.

Appearances of Deathlok are only getting hotter with his Captain America appearances by Mike Zeck pulling down an astonishing $10 ticket price.

As far as recent key sales go, the two books that demand the most attention are Iron Man #55 and Amazing Spiderman #129. In the last two months, we've sold five copies of IM #55 in NM/M for $50 each, and so less than ten copies of ASM #129 (five copies of which were NM/M for $250). Other key sales include: Tales Of Suspense #39 VG $350, Iron Man #1 VG $175, Fantastic Four #1 VG $700, FF #48 F+ $150, X-Men #1 F $700, Hulk #1 VG $400, two copies of Conan #1 NM/M $135, two copies of X-Men #94 MN $160, Silver Surfer #1 F+ $125, Spiderman #8 G+ $100, #14 F+ $300.

As for Golden Age, the most recent sales have been Superman #2 G+ $800, Superman #11 Fair $100, Captain Americas #17 F+ $400, Green Lantern #12 F $200

As for an overview, new comic sales are exploding!!! With the X-titles selling as well as they are and X-Force and X-Men being just around the corner, it is a shame that more publishers aren't toe coding their books for inventory control. If they did, retailers would have more profit to purchase more new comics!!!

Until next time, thank you, Mr. Warren, for the space, and I hope everyone has a prosperous quarter ahead...PEACE!!!

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The war is over (at least for some of our troops and most of the news media), the new Guide has been distributed and digested, and once again a weary reporter desperately grasps for a biting introduction to begin his Update Market report.

On a general note, the new Guide seems well received, including the revisions of grading and the new NM/M fourth column. I suspect the grading guidelines will continue to evolve towards some ultimate final form over the next few years. In this area, it is sometimes difficult to incorporate a wide range of opinions and inputs into objective standards. The new grading definitions do seem reasonably clear. We will continue to observe how the market reacts to reading the English language. In regards to the NM/M fourth column, early indicators are that most reputable dealers recognize the purpose and intent of this column and are NOT attempting to price VF/NM books for the NM/M prices. For those who have not read the definition and intent of this column, remember when buying or selling that these values are intended to reflect a conservative estimate of selling price for virtually PERFECT, unrestored copies.

With that background, let us look again at specific market areas:

EC COMICS/CRIME/HORROR: I was unaware that this was the hottest area of last year. What do we know. There has been a steady increase in sales in EC land, to a lesser extent, crime and horror, but I would not classify this increase in quite the same superlatives as did the Guide market report. True mint EC titles are bringing premiums of Guide at the moment, but realistically they go for 1.5X at the most.

GOLDEN AGE MARVEL: Since we're not allowed to toot our own horn here, I certainly won't (We'd never do something like that to the editors.) Suffice it to say that early high grade Marvels have leveled off at close to, or in many cases just about, where we indicated they would in our market reports last year (that's in the Overstreet Update market reports). Truly mint early Marvels are commanding approximately 1.5 to 2 times new Guide list, with the number ones at the following levels: Amazing Fantasy #15 $7,000 - $10,000, FF #1 $7,000 - $10,000, Spider-Man #1 $5,000 to $7,000, Avengers #1 $1,800 to $2,500, DD #1 $1,000 - $1,300 (watch this book go up), X-Men #1 $2,000 to $2,500, JIM #83, TOS #39, TTA #27 all in the $2,000 - $2,500 range. I have expanded the ranges out a bit more here to indicate the wide variance of top prices, depending upon EXTREMELY MINUTE grading components. All of these top tier prices refer to books in strict NM/M condition. Once this is clarified, then note that very picky factors influence the difference between a $7,000 and a $10,000 copy of, say, FF #1.

At some future point we'll attempt to discuss some of these factors in detail. Also note that we define early Marvels as books from 1961-1965, sometime spilling into 1966. The period from 1966 to 1970 marks an increase in distribution of books and in number of collectors, therefore the premiums of Guide those books command is less than their earlier counterparts.

Regarding these late sixties titles, Iron Man #1, Captain America #100, along with most of the later keys (Red Skull origin, Surfer #4, First Vision, Hawkeye, etc.) are selling extremely well and, again, at premium price in high grade. This is particularly surprising regarding the Cap and Iron Man. These were two books our counsel would have been incorrect on. (Thank God I held my tongue in print.) My thinking was that these would peak at Guide and that more surprising has been the strength of Iron Man #2-10 and Cap #103-115. Those books are pretty much available, and they list for a lot. Silver Surfer and Not Brand Echh are selling well, as are high grade copies of Marvel Tales, Collector's Item Classics, and Super Heroes.

On a final general note, we've also seen a slight increase in sales on VG to Fn/VF Marvels. This is probably due to the relative affordability of these copies when compared to the perfect high grade copies. As more and more collectors enter the already Marvel market (many are fleeing the new product market from what we gather from some of our research), the nice VG and better copies are likely to be absorbed as well, leading to an increase a few years from now.

DC GOLD: Still a steady, even market with no indicators of collapse or sudden growth spurts. Batman and Detective have slowed down. The prudent investor might pack away a few Penguin appearances in the event the Joker madness recreates itself with the release of Batman 2. You can worry less about Catwoman appearances, since she's a woman, after all, and their keys are never worth as much. (Who says there ain't institutional chauvinism almost everywhere?)

DC SILVER: This market is now where Silver Marvels were about two and a half years ago. When the recession ends (and that's optimistic phrasing), we should see a real spurt over a short period of time--a spurt which will be on top of the quick growth we have seen over the last year or so. Flash #105-130 are still ridiculously low, as are Hawkman #1-10, Aquaman, Atom, Sea Devils, Showcase, Brave And Bold, and basically all 1956-1965 DC superhero titles and, actually most non-superhero as well. A mint copy of Showcase #4 would sell currently at least $10,000. NM copies of JLA #1, Flash #105, Brave And Bold #28 all have sold at well over $2,500 in the last quarter. In general, top grade copies of DC books from this period are far harder to obtain than early Marvel titles, even though, in many cases, the print runs were higher. This is because of DC paper quality and because when early Marvels appeared, or shortly thereafter, a higher percentage of Marvel readers because collectors. Because there were more Marvel collectors, more early unread Marvels were saved. It was not until the late 1970's and early 1980's that Silver DC's attained any collecting respectability at all in comparison to Marvels, EC, Disney, Timely, and DC Golden Age. Look for steady increases in Silver DC prices to be followed by a quick spurt or leap. Currently, as a general formula, premium grade copies of most before-mentioned titles command at least two times top list, with many of the cheaper listings commanding up to four times.

DISNEY, CLASSICS: I group these together because both are specialized areas which have shown steadiness and health over the years. These books rarely surge, but demand and sales remain consistent and value increases at a steady if not dramatic rate.

FAWCETT: Sales of Fawcett books with mint Guide list of under $100 or so have continued to increase. These titles sell very well now in all grades, with lower grades commanding some premiums simply because they list so very low. There aren't many major superhero titles you can collect from the forties and fifties where a VG copy lists for under $20.

TIMELY: Continuing the trend from last year, Timelys are selling well and there are still relatively few available for sale when compared to books from other publishers. Captain America #1 now lists for enough

NEW TITLES (Books 1980 on): In general we don't sell these. If I had my way about it, I would know nothing about these. However, since I attend so many shows, and since Sparkle City is as visible as we are, I do get exposed to market conditions from a wide variety of stores and dealers we do business with, not to mention the input we get from our customers who also dabble in this material and from factors we observe at shows we attend and stores we visit. (Believe it or not, I was once an English teacher; I can still at least recognize poor sentence structure when I create it.) Suffice it to say that this is the area that has been most affected by the slowing of the economy. Every indicator we see tells us that the values in this area are grossly inflated, that almost every book that becomes "hot" invariably crashes with little or no hope of future resurgence; and that, in general, values in this area have become a false commodity market with the legitimate Price Guides and Updates serving as an unwitting accomplice to this market manipulation. We will, in the future in some other format, editorialize on this subject. Briefly mention it here only to provide the proper background to the market price observation I am about to make: Bottom line is that when a dealer is offered a complete collection of recent comics from, say, 1980 on, one copy each in mint Guide value $20,000—the reality is the collector will be offered $3,000-$4,000 or so IF HE IS LUCKY and the dealer treats him fairly. There is not, nor can there by any true scarcity of books post-1980, particularly those from Marvel, DC, or even the larger Independents. We have observed values falling in this area, a glut of product on the market with the average true value for 85% of all titles and issues being between 25 and 50 cents in mint.

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Hi, this is Martin Gold writing this issue's market report, anything to get my name back in the zines. We have been very busy selling your old comics, or as we say in England, exchanging coloured paper. The latest issue of Mr. Overstreet's Guide has just been released in the U.K. as I write, and the response has been interesting. Our customers are unsure of the new NM/M column and scared that some of our brethren will start changing double Guide on the already double Guide column. Still, as I pointed out, we already do that, so this only confirms the prices that we have always believed to be accurate.

The British Price Guide has also just hit the stores and contradicts a lot of 60's D/G prices as the U.K. market has always felt that many of the more widely read titles such as Jimmy Olsen, Mystery In Space, House Of Mystery, etc. are very undervalued. One useful addition has been a section on the first appearance of most known DC and Marvel super heroes and villains. Our sales on some characters have certainly increased because of this.

Enough of this chattering -- you want to know what's been going on in the real world, so let's start with Golden Age sales. We have been working our butts off and have managed to sell the odd well known book, such as Decisive #27 VF/N+ unrestored $18,000, Detective #27 FN- restored $12,000, Detective #33 NM- $30,000, Flash Comics #1 NM Kansas City Copy $14,000, Flash Comics #1 VF/N 99,000, All Star #3 FN- $4,500, Wonder Woman #1 NM- Kansas City Copy $4,500, Batman #1 VF/N $18,000. Not too shabby, eh?

Our big difference for our average customer is named copies. If we offered on the American market items from the famous Isle of Wight collection, would you know what we were talking about?

We have recently broken through the time barrier somewhat and can report sales of Jingle Jangle #1, Straight Arrow #1-3, Boy Explorers #1, Boy Commandos #1-10, all at Guide prices or just below, so we still have lots of work to do if "real comics" are to popularised in our part of the world.

We have a great market for Harvey file copies (I buy them), and an even bigger market for Archie comics (Paul and his wife buy them).

The Silver Age market is something else. Our sales are similar to your sales in price and demand, especially for the key books. Try some of these on for size: Showcase #4 NM $10,000, Amazing Fantasy #15 NM $7,000, Brave And The Bold #28 NM $2,200, Incredible Hulk #1 NM $2,200, Amazing Spiderman #1 NM- $6,000, Showcase #22 NM $2,200, Justice League Of America #1 NM $2,000, Tales To Astonish #27 NM $1,500, Daredevil #1 NM $1,400, Fantastic Four #4 NM $1,300, Journey Into Mystery #83 NM $1,400. We find that most comics from VFN downwards will not sell at more than Guide; however, VG downwards is usually 10% below Guide. One big difference would appear to be restored books. If a book has been correctly restored by Susan or Mark, for example, and we are talking high grade keys, we will sell these as restored books comfortably at Update Guide. Your market seems to view restoration with less acceptably; perhaps we have less available choice? A few examples of restored book sales are: Amazing Spiderman #1 NM- slight colour touch $4,000, Incredible Hulk #1 VFN+ washed and pressed $1,000, Amazing Fantasy #15 NM- cleaned and restapled $3,800, X-Men #1 NM bleached cover $1,400.

As I write this, it occures to me that most restored books that we come across, aside from early Golden Age, are always Marvels. If I ever see a restored Punisher #1, I will know that, as Ben Grimm is prone to say, "it's clobberin' time."

If we get offered any more 70's and 80's material it will take 50 wekk endowed men a week to put out the fire I have planned -- enough already. Of course they sell; why, only the other week a man bought ONE! If truth be told we are somewhat overstocked in this area and could offer you, for example, 17 long boxes of various New Titans material. Not impressed? I suggest you take another look in your stock room and I bet you can match us!

Let's look at other areas. The sales of X-Men are up again, thanks to Mr. Lee; however, Lobo has plummeted along with sales of the Demon. We have had considerable success with the lesser known independent titles such as Magnus, Blood Sword, Meta 4 and Brat Pack. The Turtles have returned to soup, and the BC reprints are being used as packing in the mail order department (shame).

What about merchandise, you ask? We produced with Marvel Comics' agreement our own Stateside, Spoiderman T-shirts and sweat shirts and they have proven to be a big seller. T-shirts are always a popular item, as are trading cards, but the only models we tend to sell are the Aurora long bones and "glow in the darks." We do have a steady trade in posters, the most popular being Wolverine, and our own signed and limited Dr. Who 27th anniversary.

One item we find tremendously popular with our customers is the signed and limited hard cover books, with recent sales such as Son Of The Demon $80, Watchmen $70 and numerous copies of the Predator at $80. The Photo Journals are a steady seller, as are the Gladstone Albums and the response to the Batman Dailies was totally unexpected. Not only did we sell out, but in order to satisfy demand, we have had standing back (with customers) to resell. We have a big problem with the adult material as this usually gets stopped at customs and will also delay the rest of our shipment. Who said Hays was dead?

We are eagerly anticipating the Rocksteer movie and the advance orders on the related merchandise are running at a high volume. We have just got the first episode of The Flash on video and have noticed an upsurge of back issue sales. Why Barry Allen wastes him time with Ina is beyond me!

Talking about movies, I just heard that Claude Van Damme has been chosen to play G.I. Joe. Something tells me the comic book sales are not going to improve because of this movie. Still, it could be worse: Mike Tyson as Martin Luther King, Danny De Vito as Reed Richards, or even Michael Keaton as Batman. Only joking (I think).

McFarlane Spiderman has continued to sell well, although our customers are worried that there appears to be a never-ending supply of new Spiderman titles and with his appearances in, dare I say it, less popular titles, they will go broke before Marvel does.

I understand that the Conan series is to be cancelled. Well, he truly is dead now. The strange thing is that, as I write, we have just sold Conan #1 to 37 in NM, at Update Guide less 10%. Hopefully, Robert E. Howard will rest more easily now.

I was approached by a woman the other day, but that's another story. Have you noticed the upsurge in female custom of late? No, not me, but one can live in hope. Will somebody please bring out a comic for women and, no, I don't mean Playgirl before you guys suggest it.

One final point: Sales of Silver Age sets have proven to be a big bonus. We have sold a VFN/NM set of Flash #105-350 at $9,000 and a NM set of Hawkman at $800. We have also sold sets of Aquaman, Atom, Metamorpho and Metal Men at around Guide and a quarter for average FN/VFN, so this style of packaging could prove popular.

Signing off from your 51st state here in the heart of Europe, as Porky would say, "That's all folks..."

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Contrary to many doomsayers, the comic book market in general remains strong. However, the only aspect of the market that has weakened somewhat are the convention sales. Although we do a limited number of shows a year, we feel that we have enough experience in this area to comment accurately. We do not see as many serious collectors attending conventions as only a few years ago. At the recent Great Eastern convention in New York City, most of the serious collectors we normally deal with did not show up. Whether or not this was due to the snow storm on the first day of the show we can not be sure. We feel that it is more likely that many collectors are finding it harder and harder to locate the books they are looking for and therefore are deciding to say home. Another possible explanation

could be the ever increasing number of conventions throughout the country. It would seem that to a convention organizer, the days Saturday and Sunday mean, by law, that they must find a holiday Inn ballroom, somewhere in this country to throw a comic book convention. Along those same lines, our mail order sales continue to be extremely strong. Books that may be difficult to sell at a convention are meeting with little resistance through the mail. After speaking to a number of other mail order dealers, we have found this to be true throughout the country On to the market report...

Without doubt, DC sales remain as strong as they ever were New DC collectors seem to be coming out of the woodwork in search of a wide range of titles and grades. The issues that seem the most elusive are Flash and Showcase appearances of the Flash. High grade copies, especially of the Showcase Flash issues are rare. We now believe that copies of Showcase #4, 8, 13 and 14 originally came off the printing press as VG. This could be the only possible explanation!

Because of the large number of key first appearances in the titles Showcase and Brave and the Bold such as Flash, Challengers, JLA, Adam Strange, Green Lantern, Atom and Hawkman, copies in all grades sell extremely well Collectors should pay particular attention to Showcase #17 Considering the demand for this book and the extreme difficulty in locating a high grade copy, the $420 price listed in Update #15 seems very low At the end of December we sold a strict NM/M copy for $800 If we had four more copies to offer for sale, we would have been able to sell those too.

In today's market, the goal of the average collector is to locate titles that he or she feels is underpriced in relation to the present supply and demand. These collectors/investors should take a closer look at JLA# 9 to 75 and Flash #105-200. For example, a copy of JLA #33 is listed in Update #14 at $11 in NM, while a book such as Green Lantern #33 which is no harder to locate, is listed at $36 This kind disparity should not be overlooked by collectors.

The two golden age DC books that we receive the most requests for are Flash Comics #1 and Adventure Comics #40 Of the three copies of Flash #1 that we brought to the recent Great Eastern convention, two copies were sold by the end of the show Considering the fact that this book contains the first appearances of Flash, Hawkman and Johnny Thunder, collectors should strongly consider buying this book for the investment potential alone. Secondly. copies of Adventure Comics #40, featuring the first appearance Sandman, remain in high demand Even though this book took a dramatic jump in the last guide, it is unquestionably still a very underpriced book.

Some recent DC sales include All-American #16 FN/VF $7000, Batman #1 Good (restored) $2,500, Flash Comics #1 G $1,200 Flash #105 VG+ $400, #123 FN-$185, Green Lantern #1 VF $3,500 #2 VF $1,100, My Greatest Adventure #80 VG/VG- $50, New Fun #1 VG- $4000, Showcase #4 VG+ $1,500 #4 G/VG $775 Superboy #1 VG+ $750 World's Finest #2 VG+ $410

Marvel/Timely

High-grade early silver age Marvel sales are strong. Copies that are true high grades without any trace of browning. Marvel chipping, color touch-up are still bringing a premium Copies of Hulk #1, Tales of Suspense #39 and Amazing Fantasy #15 will easily bring 2X update in strict VF/NM or better

Sales have been strong for high-grade copies of Fantastic Four #48, Silver Surfer #1. Even though these books have experienced significant price increases in the past few years, collectors are still willing to pay somewhat over guide to obtain sharp copies

Sales of pre-superhero Marvels are extremely strong Copies of these books in all grades ring at least 1 25X current guide The problem with these books is the difficulty in obtaining high-grade copies

Far and away, the most requested Timely is Captain America #1 All copies are easily bringing 1 3X current guide. The same is generally true for most issues of Captain America. We believe that the price difference between Captain America #1 and Marvel Comics #1 will significantly decrease in the coming years

The demand for Atlas western comics far exceeded the supply Copies of Kid Colt, Rawhide Kid and Two-Gun Kid sold well at over guide prices Some recent sales include: Avengers #1 FN/VF $600, #3 VF $140, #4 NM/M $800 Captain America #9 VF/NM $850, #10 NM $1,150, Fantastic Four #1 G $500, Spiderman #1 G/VG $690, #10 NM/M $400 #14 NM+ $800, Marvel Mystery #11 NM $850 #20 VF/NM $500, Tales Of Suspense #39 VF/VF+ $1,050 #39 G- $140, #58 NM $125, Tales to Astonish #27 G 1820, X-Men #1 VF/NM $1,300, ~#2 NM $85

MLJ

Most MLJ titles remain consistently good sellers which included Top-Notch, Pep, Blue Ribbon, Hangman and Zip Early issues of Archie Comics in high grade sold surprisingly well. We have also noticed some increased activity for early issues of some of the spin-off titles such as Jughead, Betty and Veronica, etc. The MLJ issue that we get the most calls for is Pep #17 which is the first appearance of Hangman. Some of the most recent sales included Blue Ribbon #1 F- $315, #9 VG/F $275, Pep #1 VF/NM $1,100 #15 NM $230 Archie Comics #2 Fr $65, Archie Comics #1 VG++ $800, Hangman #3 VF $200, #2 FVF $150.

CLASSICS

Original high grade Classic Comics sold extremely when we infrequently had them for sale Original editions in lower grades also sold well On the other hand, reprint editions were slow We were fortunate enough to acquire a supply of Classics Illustrated Comics which included the original Classics that came with it. Many of the Classic giveaways and special issues were difficult to locate and difficult to keep in stock

FICTION HOUSE

The demand for early Fiction House remained strong. The first twenty issues of all the major titles such as Jumbo, Jungle, Planet, Rangers, Fight and Wings all sold quickly One of the main problems that we have found with Fiction House is page quality A large percentage of the Fiction House that we have acquired have brown pages. In contrast to many later Fiction House issues that are somewhat common, most early issues and a select number of later issues are very difficult to locate We believe that this is due to the erratic distribution system that Fiction House had Some of our more recent Fiction House sales included Jungle #7 NM $280 Planet #15 VG/FN $450, Wings #7 NM+ $210

DISNEY

Disneys from 1933 to 1944 sold extremely well However, any copies of Four Color #16, 29, 62 and 178 we acquired we sold in a matter of days Some recent Disney sales include Four Color #9 FN/VF $1650, Mickey Mouse Magazine (1933) VF $1,250, Walt Disney Comics & Stories#1 VF$3 000, #1 VG-$800, #31 F $450, Four Color #16 F- $825, #189 NM $390

LEV GLEASON

Sales on all superhero Gleason titles remained rather strong. This was especially true for Daredevil Comics and Silver Streak However, sales from Lev Gleason crime books such as Crime Does Not Pay and Crime And Punishment were relatively slow. For a variety of reasons, the tail-end runs of many of the Lev Gleason titles remain difficult to locate Collectors made numerous requests for copies of Silver Streak #6-10 and Daredevil Battles Hitler The Daredevil #1 sold especially well in Fine or less condition. Some recent Lev Gleason sales Silver Streak #3 G+ $140, #6 FN $950, Daredevil Battles Hitler#1 G $300, Crime Does Not Pay #22(#1) VG++ $190

EC

All issues of Mad comics in all grades sold well Collectors and investors should look toward this title for significant price increases in the future The demand for all Horror and to a lesser extent Sci-Fi EC is definitely on the rise. The early issues are slow to move However, the E.C. war titles remain slow Some recent sales include Aces High #1 VG++ $19, Mad #1 VF/NM+ $850, Frontline Combat #1 FN++ $127, Shock Suspenstories #1 FN/FN- $141, Tales From the Crypt #20 Mint $475, Vault of Horror #12 NM $800, Weird Fantasy #13 VF/NM $500

MISC

Horror titles, especially in high grade sold very, very well. Titles such as Thing, Weird Mysteries, Strange Terrors etc were in heavy demand. All Ditko Charlton and books with L.B. Cole covers were difficult to keep in stock

We have seen a very dramatic rise in demand for Street & Smith's Shadow Comics and Green Hornet Comics These two titles seem to sell well in all grades

One recent sale of particular note was a VG+ copy of Famous Funnies Series 1 which sold for $7000. This book, which we believe that there are only three copies exist, is the first comic book that had a cover price and was actually sold on the newsstand.

Until next time... ..

ABC WARRIORS, THE Fleetway/Quality - Cover Price c (
ABYSS, THE Dark Horse - Cover Price or less
AC ANNUAL AC Comics - Cover Price or less (3.95-c)
ACE COMICS PRESENTS Ace Comics- Cover Price or
ACES Aarne Press (Eclipse) - Cover Price or less
ACK THE BARBARIAN Innovation - Cover Price or less

ACTION COMICS (Weekly #601-642)
Dec., 1954- Present
DC Comics
1- Reprint, 1988; 50¢ Cover Price or less 50
201- Last pre-code issue 132.00 +
202-220 44.00 +
221-240 88.00 +
241, 243-251 66.00 +
242- Origin & 1st app. Brainiac 440.00 + H
252- Origin & 1st app. Supergirl, re-intro of Metallo, its 2nd appearance since Superboy #1 478.00 + H
253- 2nd app Supergirl 83.00 + H
254- 1st meeting Of Bizarro & Superman 84.00 +
255- 1st Bizarro Lois Lane 72.00 +
256-261 44.00 +
262-266, 268-270 33.00 +
267- 3rd Legion app 242.00 + H
271-275, 277-282 282-Last 10 cent 31.00 +
276- 6th Legion app 88.00 +
283- Legion Of Super-Villains app 38.00 +
284- Mon-El app 38.00 +
285- 12th Legion app. 38.00 +
286-290 20.00 +
291, 292, 294-299 13.00 +
293- Origin Comet 29.00 +
300 15.00 +
301-308, 310-320 7.00
309- Legion app. 8.00
321-333, 335-340 6.00
334- Giant (G-39) 12.00 +
341-346, 348-369 4.00
347- Giant (G-39) 8.00 +
361-372, 374-380 2.00
373- Giant (G-57) 6.00 +
381-424 1.50
425- Adams art 2.00
426-436, 438, 439 1.50
437, 443- 100 page giants 2.00
440- 1st Great art on Green Arrow 4.00
441- Great art on Green Arrow 2.50
442, 444-450 1.50
451-499 1.50
500- Superman life story 1.50
501-551, 554-562 1.00
552, 553- Animal Man C&S 12.00 H
563- Alan Moore 12.00 H
564-Byrne begins ! 1.50
565-597, 599 1.00
598- 1st app Checkmate 3.00
600- 2.50 Cover Price or less 4.00
601-642- Weekly issues (1.50, 48 pgs.), 611-614- Cel-Woman stories, 613- Nightwing etc 1.50
643- Monthly begins, Perez ole, scripts 1.50
644-649, 651-656 644- Perez begins 1.50
650- Double size, 1.50-c 1.50
652- Superman reveals Id to Lois Lane, story cont. in Superman 53 3.00 + H
Annual 1 (10/87) Arthur Adams art, Batman app. 6.00 H
Annual 2 (July, 1989, 1.75, Perez ole) 2.00
Title Value: 8088.80

ACTION FORCE Marvel Comics Ltd (British) - Cover P

ADAM STRANGE (See Showcase 17, Mystery In Space
1990-No. 3, 1990 (3.95, color, mini-series, 52 pgs.)
DC Comics
Book 1-3 3.95
Title Value: 3.95

ADOLESCENT RADIOACTIVE BLACK
BELT HAMSTERS Comic Castle/Eclipse
Comics - Cover Price or less

ADVANCED DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS
Dec. 1988-Present (1.25/1.75-c, color)
DC Comics
1 11.00
2 8.00
3 5.00
4-10 3.00
11-15 2.00
16-23 1.50
24-30; 1.75-c begins 1.00 +
Annual 1 (1990, 3.95-c) 3.95
Title Value: 82.65

ADVENTURE COMICS
No. 200, 1955- No. 503, Sept, 1983
National Periodical Publications/DC Comics
200 180.00
201-209 130.00
210- 1st app. Krypto 1050.00 + H
211-220 119.00
221-246 95.00
247- 1st app. Leg Of Super Heroes 1725.00 +
248-252, 254-256 69.00
253- Swamp Thing, Robin first meet 75.00 H
256- Origin Green Arrow 235.00 + H
257-259 60.00
260- 1st Silver Age origin of Aquaman 200.00 + H
261-266, 268, 270 45.00
267-2nd Legion Of SuperHeroes 425.00
269- Intro Aqualad 85.00 H
271- Origin Luther 110.00 + H
272-274, 276-280 276- 3rd Metallo 32.00
275- Origin Superman/Batman team reboli 60.00 +
281, 284, 287-289 288-Bizarro cover 28.00
282- 8th Legion app 70.00
283- Intro Phantom Zone 42.00
285- 1st Bizarro World story in Adv. 50.00
286- 1st Bizarro krypto 40.00
290- 9th Legion app ; last 10 cent iss. 65.00
291, 292, 295-298 295- Bizarro-c 24.00
293- 13th Legion app 48.00
294- 1st Bizarro M. Monroe, Pres. Kennedy Bizarro cover 45.00 H
299-1st Gold Kryptonite 25.00
300- Legion series begins 200.00
301- Origin Bounding Boy 65.00
302-305 36.00
306-310 28.00
311-329 20.00
321- Intro Time Trapper 15.00
323-325, 328-330 13.00
327- Intro Timber Wolf in Legion 13.00
331-340 9.00
341- Triplicate Girl becomes Duo Damsel 8.00
342-345, 347, 350, 351 7.00
346, 348, 349 8.00
352, 354-369 6.00
353- Death of Ferro Lad in Legion 10.00
365-394, 396, 398-370 4.00
395, 397, 371, 372 5.00
373, 374, 376-380 4.00
375- Intro Quantum Queen 5.00
381-386, 391-400 1.20
390- (80 pg. Giant G-81), 403- (88 pg. Giant G-91) 4.00
401, 402, 404-410 1.20
411, 413, 418, 419 .80
412- Reprint origin & 1st app. Animal Man from Strange Apr. #180 6.00
414- R- 2nd Animal Man from Str. Adv #184 4.00 +
415, 420, 421 - Animal Man reprints 2.00
416- Giant DC-10: G.A.-r 1.20
417- Women Vigilante, Frazetta Shining Knight ; reprints Adv. 161 1.20
422-424 .80
425- New look 1.60
426-458 .80
459-469 .80
467-490- Last comic-size iss. .80
491-499; 497-100 pg. digests begin 1.20
500- All Legion reprints 1.60
501-503 1.00
Title Value: 12135.00

ADVENTURERS, THE
August, 1966-V3#6, 1990 (1.50, B&W)
Aircel/Adventure Pub
1- Peter Hsu art 4.00 -
1- Cover variant, limited edition 9.00 -
1- 2nd Print (1986), 1st app. Ell Warrior 2.50 -
2, 3 2.00 -
0- (#4, 12/86) Origin 2.00
4-10 1.60
Book II Regular Edition No. 1 1.60
Book II Limited Edition No. 1 1.60
Book II #2-9 1.00
Book III #1 (Oct., '89, 2.25-c) - 6 2.25
Trade Paperback, B&W, 7.95 8.40
Title Value: 68.60

ADVENTURERS IN THE MYSTWOOD Blackthorne - Cov
ADVENTURERS INTO THE UNKNOWN A+ Comics - Co
ADVENTURERS OF BARON MUNCHAUSEN Now - Cove
ADVENTURERS OF BAYOU BILLY, THE Arrche Advents
ADVENTURERS OF B.O.C. Invasion - Cover Price or less
ADVENTURERS OF CAPTAIN JACK, THE Fantagraphic
ADVENTURERS OF CHUK, THE White Wolf Comics - Co
ADVENTURERS OF CHRISBIE CLAUS, THE Hero Graph

ADVENTURERS OF FORD FAIRLANE, THE
May, 1990-No. 4, Aug. 1990 (1.50, mature readers, mini-se
DC Comics
1-4 Movie tie-in 1.50
Title Value: 6.00

ADVENTURERS OF LUTHER ARKWRIGHT, THE Valkyrie
ADVENTURERS OF RICK RAYGUN, THE Stop Dragon C

Action Comics #343, © DC

Adventure Comics #218, © DC

Adventure Comics #249, © DC

Adventurers #1 (1st printing), © Aircel

Adventures of the Fly #6, © Archie Comics

Adventures of the Jaguar #14, © Archie Comics

Akira #17, © Epic Comics

Alien Encounters #8, © Eclipse Comics

ADVENTURES OF SLATE SKATE, THE Hot Shot Comic
ADVENTURES OF SPENCER SPOOK, THE Ace Comics

ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN
(Formerly Superman)
Jan. 1987-Present
DC Comics
424 2.00
425-449 449- Invasion 1.00
450-477 .60
Annual 1 (1987), 2 (1990) 1.50
Title Value: 83.00

ADVENTURES OF THE FLY
(The Fly, No. 2; Fly Man No. 32-39)
Aug. 1959-No. 30, Oct. 1964; No. 31, May. 1965
Archie Publications, Radio Comics
1- Shield app., origin The Fly; Bill/c c/a 368.00 + H
2- Millieman, Bill, Powell-a 149.00 + H
3-Origin retold 98.00 + H
4- Bill/c-c, Powell-a, Shield x-over 67.00 + H
5-10; 7- Black Hood app., 8, 9-Shield x-c 41.00 + H
11-13, 15-20 20- Origin Flygirl retold 23.00 + H
14-Intro & origin Flygirl 35.00 + H
21-30 18.00 + H
31- Black Hood, Shield, Comet app 21.00 + H
Title Value: 1251.00

ADVENTURES OF THE JAGUAR, THE
Sept., 1961-No. 16, Nov. 1963
Archie Publications (Radio Comics)
1- Origin & 1st app. The Jaguar 90.00
2, 3 3- Last 10 cent issue 40.00
4, 5-Catgirl app. 28.00
6-10 8-Catgirl app 22.00
11-16 13, 14 Catgirl, Black Hood app in 16.00
Title Value: 406.00

ADVENTURES OF THE OUTSIDERS, THE DC Comics
ADVENTURES OF THEOWN, THE Pyramid- Cover Pric
ADVENTURES OF ZOTI IN DIMENSION 10 1/2 Eclipse
AFTER APOCALYPSE Parageraphic- Cover Price or les
AFTERMATH Invasion- Cover Price or less
AGAINST BLACKSHARD: 3-D Status- Cover Price or les
AGENT UNKNOWN Renegade Press- Cover Price or le
AIDA-ZEE Nate Butler Studio - Cover Price or less

AKIRA
July, 1988-No. 50, Oct. 1989 (16 pages, bi-weekly)
Eclipse (no. 9 on regular size)
1- 50/c-c 2.50 -
2-4, 6-8 1.00 -
5- Dave Stevens cover 3.00
9-49 1.50 -
50- 4.95 cover, 52 pgs. Kubert -c 4.95
Akboy Meets The Prowler (1987) 1.95
Akboy - Mr. Monster Special (1987) 1.95
Akboy Versus The Air Maidens (1988) 1.95
Title Value: 67.40

AIR FIGHTERS CLASSICS Eclipse - Cover Price or less
AIRSHIPEERS MEET SGT. STRIKE SPECIAL Eclipse - 1
AIRLOCK Eclectus, Ltd. - Cover Price or less
AIRMAIDENS SPECIAL Eclipse - Cover Price or less
AIR RAIDERS Star Comics (Marvel) - Cover Price or les
AIRWAVES - Caliber - Cover Price or less (2.50-c)

AKIRA
Sept., 1988-Present (3.50, color, deluxe)
Epic Comics
1 10.00 +
1- 2nd print 4.00
2 6.00 +
2- 2nd print 4.00
3-5 6.00 +
6-15 4.00 +
16-28 3.00
Title Value: 128.50

AKQJ - Pantagraphics - Cover Price or less (2.75-c)

ALBEDO
Apr. 1983- No. 14, Spring, 1989 (B&W)
Thoughts And Images
0- Yellow cover, 50 copies 66.00 -
0- White cover, 450 copies 67.00 -
0- Blue, 1st printing, 500 copies 36.00 -
0- Blue, 2nd printing, 1000 copies 24.00 -
0- 3rd print 3.60 -
0- 4th print 1.40 -
1- Dark red; 1st app Usagi Yojimbo 38.00 -
1- Bright red 29.00 -
2 28.00 -
3 5.70 -
4 8.60 -
5 4.80 -
6 6.70 -
7-14 2.00
Title Value: 358.70

ALF
Mar. 1988-Present (1.00, color)
Marvel Comics
1 4.00 -
2 2.50 -
3-5 1.50 -
6-42 1.00
Annual 1 (1988, 1.75-c), Evolutionary War 3.00 -
Annual 2 (1989, 2.00-c) 2.00
Annual 3 (1990, 2.00-c) 2.00
Holiday Special 1 (1.75, 64 pgs.) 1.75
Holiday Special 2 (1989, 2.00, 64 pgs.) 2.00
Spring Special 1 (1989, 1.75) 1.75
Title Value: 60.50

ALIAS: New - Cover Price or less (1.75-c)
ALIEN DUCKLINGS Slashthorne - Cover Price or less

ALIEN ENCOUNTERS
June 1985 - No. 14 , Aug., 1987
Eclipse
1-14 2.00
Title Value: 28.00

ALIEN FIRE
1987-No. 3, 1987 (2.00, B&W)
Kitchen Sink Press
1-3 2.50
Title Value: 7.50

ALIEN LEGION
April, 1984 - No. 20, Sept. 1987
Epic Comics (Marvel)
1 3.00
2-5 2.00
6-20 1.50
Title Value: 33.00

ALIEN LEGION
Aug. 1987-No. 18, Aug. 1990 (1.25, color)
Epic Comics
V2 #1 2.00
2-18 1.50
Title Value: 27.00

ALIEN LEGION: ON THE EDGE
Nov. 1990-No. 3, 1991 (4.50-c, mini-series, color)
Epic Comics (Marvel)
1-3 4.50
Title Value: 13.50

ALIEN NATION DC Comics - Cover Price or less
ALIEN NATION: A BREED APART Adventure - Cover I
ALIEN NATION: THE SPARTANS Adventure - Cover P

ALIENS
(Also see Dark Horse Presents #24)
1988-No. 6, 1989 (1.95, B&W, mini-series)
Dark Horse
1- New story based on movie 29.00 + H
1- Second printing 8.00 + H
1- Third printing 2.00 H
1- Fourth printing 2.00 H
2 22.00 + H
2- Second printing 4.00 H
2- Third printing 2.00 H
3-6 6.00 H
3-6- 2nd printing 2.00
ALIENS V2 #1 (Aug, 1989, color, 2.25) 10.00 H
V2 #1- 2nd printing (1990, 2.25-c) 2.25
2-4 2.50 H
Title Value: 120.75

ALIENS: EARTH WAR
June, 1990-No. 4, 1990 (2.50-c, color, limited series)
Dark Horse
1 7.00
1- 2nd print 2.50
2 5.00
3, 4 4.00
Title Value: 22.50

ALIENS VS. PREDATOR
June, 1990-No. 4, Dec., 1990 (Mini-series, 2.50-c, B&W)
Dark Horse
1 8.00 + H
1- 2nd print 2.50
0 (July, 1990, 1.95-c) 4.50 + H
2, 3 3.50 H
4 2.50
Title Value: 22.50

ALIEN: THE ILLUSTRATED STORY Heavy Metal Books

ALIEN WORLDS
Dec., 1982 - No. 9, Jan., 1985
Pacific Comics/Eclipse
1 3.50
2-7 2, 4-Dave Stevens c/a 3.00
8- 1st Eclipse issue 1.70
9- $1.50 Cover Price or less, last issue 2.00
3-D No. 1- Art Adams 1st pub. work 6.00 H
Title Value: 30.20

ALL AMERICAN MEN OF WAR
No. 2, Dec-Jan., 1953-No. 117, Sept.-Oct., 1968
National Periodical Publ
127 (1962) 240.00
128 (1962) 160.00
2-5 (1962) 130.00
6-10 80.00
11-18 Last pre-code issue 70.00
19-28 55.00 +
29, 30, 32-Wood art 61.00 +
31, 33-40 38.00 +
41-60 28.00 +
61-66, 68-87 20.00 +
67-1st Gunner & Sarge by Andru 26.00 +
88-99 11.00 +
81-100 7.00 +
101-117 6.00 +
Title Value: 3978.50

ALL HALLOW'S EVE Innovation - Cover Price or less
ALL STAR INDEX, THE ICG (Eclipse) - Cover Price or

ALL-STAR SQUADRON
Sept, 1981 - No. 67, Mar 1987
DC Comics
1 1.00
2-24 .60
25- 1st Infinity, Inc. 2.00 -
26- Infinity, Inc. origin 2.00 -
27-46, 48, 49 .80
47- Todd McFarlane art 3.00 -
50- Crisis x-over 1.50
51-66; Crisis x-over 1.00
67-87 .60
Annual 1-3 1.00
Title Value: 65.10

ALL-STAR WESTERN
(Weird Western Tales #12 on)
Aug-Sept, 1970-No. 11, Apr-May, 1972
National Periodical Publications
1 4.00
2- El Diablo by Morrow begins 2.50
3-8: 3- Origin El Diablo 2.00
9- Frazetta a (), 3 pgs. 4.00
10- 1st app. Jonah Hex 18.00
11 7.00
Title Value: 50.50

ALPHA FLIGHT (See X-Men #120, 121)
Aug, 1983-Present (#50 on are direct sale)
Marvel Comics Group
1- Wolverine, Nightcrawler cameo 5.00
2 2.00
3-11 2.00
12- Double size 2.50
13- Wolverine app. 10.00 + H
14-18, 16-Wolverine cameo 1.50
17- X-Men x-over, Wolverine cameo 6.00 H
19-28: Last Byrne issues 1.50
29-32, 35-49 1.00
33, 34- Wolverine app., 34- Origin retold 5.00 H
50- Double size 1.50
51- Jim Lee's first work at Marvel 8.00 + H
52, 53- Wolverine app., 53- Lee-a 5.00 + H
55-62: Jim Lee art(p) 3.00 +
54, 64- No Jim Lee art 1.30
65-74, 76-80: 74- Wolverine, Spider-Man app. 1.50
75- Double size, 1.95 cover 1.95
87-90 Wolverine app., Jim Lee covers 2.50 + H
91-94 1.00
Annual 1 1.80
Annual 2- (12/87, 1.25 cover) 1.30
Title Value: 192.85

ALTER EGO First Comics - Cover Price or less
ALTERNATE EXISTENCE Alternate Comics - Cover Pr
ALTERNATE HEROES Prelude Graphics -Cover Price

AMAZING ADULT FANTASY
(Amazing Adve. No. 1-8; Amazing Fantasy No. 15)
No. 7, Dec, 1961 - No. 14, July, 1962
Marvel Comics Group (AMI)
7- Ditko cover & art in all 125.00 H
8-last 10 cent issue 110.00 H
9-14: 14-FOX prototype 80.00 H
Title Value: 775.00

AMAZING ADVENTURES
(Amazing Adult Fantasy No. 7 on)
June, 1961 - No. 5, Nov, 1961
Marvel Comics Group (AMI)
1- Origin Dr. Droom (1st Marvel Super-Hero)
Ditko a-all/ art in all 330.00 + H
2 205.00 + H
3-5 148.50 + H
Title Value: 1129.00

AMAZING ADVENTURES
Aug, 1970 - No. 38, Nov, 1976
Marvel Comics Group
1- Inhumans by Kirby & Black Widow begin 5.00
2-4 3.00
5-8: Adams art 6.00
9, 10- 10 Last Inhumans 3.00
11- New Beast begins, ends no. 17, X-Men cameo 6.00
12-17 4.00
18- 1st app. Killraven, Adams art 6.00
19-38 2.00
Title Value: 118.50

AMAZING ADVENTURES
December, 1979 - No. 14, January, 1981
Marvel Comics Group
V2 #1- Reprints X-Men 1, 38 3.00
2-14: Early X-Men reprints 2.00
Title Value: 29.00

AMAZING ADVENTURES Marvel Comics - Cover Price
AMAZING COMICS PREMIERES Amazing Comics - Co
AMAZING CYNICALMAN, THE Eclipse - Cover Price or

AMAZING FANTASY
(..Adult Fantasy No. 7-14)
No. 15, Sept. 1962 (on 1st pg.)
Marvel Comics Group (AMI)
15- Origin & 1st app. Spider-Man 3600.00 H
Title Value: 3600.00

AMAZING HIGH ADVENTURE Marvel Comics Group - C

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, THE
March, 1963 - Present
Marvel Comics Group
1- Origin retold, Ditko 3400.00 H
1 (Golden Records Reprint) 66.00 + H
(with Golden Records (1966) set still se 132.00 + H
1-1st app. The Vulture 1000.00 H
3- 1st app. Doc Octopus 700.00 H
4- Origin & 1st app. The Sandman 520.00 H
5- Dr. Doom app. 480.00 H
6- 1st app. Lizard 550.00 H
7, 8, 10: 8- Early FF x-over 330.00 H
9- Origin & 1st app. Electro 360.00 H
11, 12 200.00 H
13- 1st app. Mysterio 250.00 H
14- 1st app. the Green Goblin (Norman Osborn) 525.00 H
15- 1st app. Kraven The Hunter 220.00 H
16, 18, 19: 16- Early Daredevil app 180.00 H
17- 2nd app. Green Goblin 280.00 H
20- 1st app. & origin The Scorpion 155.00 H
21, 22 110.00 H
23- 3rd app. Green Goblin (C&S) 165.00 H
24 100.00 H
25- 1st app. Mary Jane Watson (cameo) (Face not shown, but introduced as Mary Jane) 100.00 H
26- 4th app. Green Goblin 1st app Crime Master 135.00 H
27- 5th app. Green Goblin 125.00 H
28- 1st app. Molten Man, scarcer in high grade 130.00 H
29, 30 95.00 H
31-38: 31- Intro Harry Osborn, Green Stacy, & Flash Warren, 38-Last Ditko issue 65.00 H
36- Green Goblin C&S, id revealed 75.00 H
40- 1st origin Green Goblin 100.00 H
41- 1st app. Rhino 80.00 + H
42- 2nd app. Mary Jane Watson (cameo, last 2 panels) (1st time her face is shown) 55.00 H
43-48 40.00 H
50- Intro Kingpin 148.00 H
51- 2nd app. of Kingpin 60.00 + H
52-60, 65- Intro Capt. George Stacy 26.00 + H
61-80 17.00 + H
81-88, 91-93, 96, 99 16.00 + H
90- Death of Capt. Stacy 21.00 + H
94- Origin retold 32.00 + H
95-98: Drug books not approved by CCA 34.00 + H
100- Anniversary issue 79.00 + H
101- Intro Morbius 22.00 + H
102- Origin Morbius (52 pgs.) 28.00 + H
103-120 14.00 + H
121- Death of Gwen Stacy 88.00 + H
122- Death of Green Goblin 88.00 + H
123-128 13.00 + H
129- 1st app. The Punisher (2/74) 260.00 H
130-133, 138-160 8.00 H
134- Punisher cameo app. (July, 1974) 20.00 H
135- 2nd full Punisher app. (Aug, 1974) 55.00 H
136- Reappearance of Green Goblin (Harry Osborn) 20.00 H
137- Green Goblin o/s (Harry Osborn) 12.00 + H
161- Punisher (cameo) 11.00 H
162- Punisher app., Nightcrawler 22.00 H
163-173, 181-190 181- Origin retold, gives life history of Spiderman 5.00 H

All-Star Western #1, © DC

Amazing Adventures #11 (3/71), © Marvel

The Amazing Spider-Man #1, © Marvel

The Amazing Spider-Man #129, © Marvel

swipe from F.F. #1 1.10
61-71: 6*- Last Byrne c/s Annual 1 2.00
Annual 2 (1987, 1.25) 2.00
Annual 3 (1988) Evolutionary War 2.00
Annual 4 (1989, 2.00) Atlantis Attacks 2.20
Annual 5 (1990-c, 2.00-c) 2.00
Title Value: 128.40

WESTERN GUNFIGHTERS
Aug., 1970-No. 33, Nov., 1975 (1-6, 88 pgs., 7, 52 pgs.)
Marvel Comics Group
1- Ghost Rider begins 2.00
3-33. 7- Origin Ghost Rider retold; 10- Origin Black Rider 1.00
Title Value: 34.00

WHAM-O GIANT COMICS
Apr., 1967 (Newspaper size, 96pg., one shot, full color)
Wham-O Mfg. Co.
1- Radian & Goody Bumpkin by Wally Wood; 1 pg. Stanle Lou Fine, Tuska art, wraparound-c 22.00 +
Title Value: 22.00

WHAT IF...?
Feb, 1977 - No. 47, Oct. 1985
Marvel Comics Group
1- Spider-Man, F.F. 12.00 H
2- Origin Hulk retold 7.00 H
3-5 6.00 H
6-10 4.00 H
11, 12 3.00 H
13- Conan 5.00 H
14-26, 29, 30: 22-Origin Dr. Doom retc 2.50 H
27- X-Men app., Miller-c 6.00 H
28- Daredevil by Miller 6.00 H
31- X-Men app., Wolverine app. 10.00 + H
32-47 1.70 H
Special (June, 1988, 1.50, color) 2.00 H
Title Value: 166.30

WHAT IF...? (2nd Series)
July, 1989-Present (1.25, color)
Marvel Comics
V2 #1- Evolutionary War 3.00
2-5 1.40
6-X-Men 2.50
7-Wolverine app. 2.00
8-12: 8- X-Men, 10- Punisher app. 1.50
13-23, 25, 28 1.25
24- Wolverine, Punisher app 1.50 +
Title Value: 38.35

WHAT THE?!
Aug. 1988-Present (1.25/1.50, color, semi-annual)
Marvel Comics
1 2.00
2, 4 1.50
3- Todd McFarlane art 3.00
5- Punisher/Wolverine parody 1.50
6-12 1.25
Title Value: 18.25

WHISPER
Dec., 1983 - No. 2, 1984
Capital Comics
1- Origin 7.00 -
2 3.00
Title Value: 13.00

WHISPER
June, 1988-No. 37, June, 1990
First Comics
V2 No. 1 3.00
2 2.00
3-9 1.30
10-18: 1.75-c 1.75
17-37: 1.95-c 1.95
Special (1 Nov, 1986, 2.50) 2.50
Title Value: 69.50

WHODUNNIT? Eclipse - Cover Price or less

WHO'S WHO
Mar., 1985 - No. 26, April 1987 (26 issue mini-series)
DC Comics
1 2.00
2-26 1.20
Title Value: 32.00

WHO'S WHO IN STAR TREK
Mar., 1987-No. 2, Apr. 1987 (1.50, color)
DC Comics
1, 2 5.00
Title Value: 10.00

WHO'S WHO IN THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES
Apr. 1987-No. 7, Nov. 1988 (1.25, color Index)
DC Comics
1-7 1.30
Title Value: 9.10

WHO'S WHO UPDATE '87
Aug., 1987-No. 5 Dec. 1987 (1.25, color)
DC Comics
1-5 1.50
Title Value: 7.50

WHO'S WHO UPDATE '88
Aug. 1988-No. 4, Nov. 1988 (1.25, Index)
DC Comics
1-4 1.25
Title Value: 5.00

WILD, THE Eastern Comics - Cover Price or less
WILD ANIMALS Pacific Comics - Cover Price or less
WILD BILL HICOK AC Comics - Cover Price or less
WILDCARDS Epic Comics (Marvel) - Cover Price or le
WILD DOG DC Comics - Cover Price or less
WILD KNIGHTS Eternity - Cover Price or less
WILDMAN Megaton Comics- Cover Price or less
WILD, WILD WEST, THE Millenium - Cover Price or le
WILL EISNER PRESENTS Eclipse - Cover Price or les
WILLOW Marvel Comics - Cover Price or less
WINTERWORLD Eclipse - Cover Price or less
WITCH Eternity - Cover Price or less
WIZARD OF FOURTH STREET Dark Horse - Cover Pr
WIZARD OF TIME, THE Devil House- Cover Price or l
WIZARDS OF THE LAST RESORT Blackthorne- Cove
WIZARD WORKS Fantasy General- Cover Price or les
WOLFPACK Marvel Comics - Cover Price or less
WOLFPI Blackthorne- Cover Price or less

WOLVERINE (Also see Incredible Hulk)
Sept, 1982 - No. 4, Dec, 1982 (mini-series)
Marvel Comics
1- Miller cover & art in all 19.00 + H
2, 3 13.00 + H
4 16.00 + H
Title Value: 61.00

WOLVERINE (Also see Marvel Comics Presents)
Nov 1988-Present (1.50, color)
Marvel Comics
1 17.00 + H
2 9.00 + H
3-5 7.00 + H
6-9: 7, 8- Punisher app. 6.00 + H
10- Before dawn, 1st battle with Sabertooth 30.00
11-16: 11- New Costume 17.00
17-20: 17- Byrne c/s begins, ends #23 2.00
21-40: 21,75-c, 25-cn 1.75
41- Sabretooth revealed as Wolverine's father 2.50 + H
, , The Jungle Adventure (4.50-c) 4.50
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WOLVERINE BATTLES THE INCREDIBLE HULK
1989 (4.95-c)
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NN- R- incredible Hulk 180, 181 7.00
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WOLVERINE SAGA, THE
Sept., 1988-No. 4, Dec. 1989 (3.95, color, deluxe, mini-se
Marvel Comics
1- Beginnings 5.00
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No. 73, January, 1955 - No. 329, Jan., 1986
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Feb. 1987-Present
DC Comics
1- Perez cover & art begins, ends #24 3.00
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21-49, 51-56 1.00
50- 1.50-c, 52 pgs. 1.50
Annual 1 (1 50, 1988)- Art Adams art 1.50
Annual 2 (2.00, 1988) 2.00
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WORLD OF WOOD Eclipse - Cover Price or less
WORLD OF YOUNG MASTER New Comics Group - C

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Jan, 1998 - No. 2, Jan, 1998 (mini-series)
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1, 2	3.60
Title Value:	7.00

X-MEN AND THE MICRONAUTS, THE
Jan, 1984 - No. 4, April, 1984 (mini-series)
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1-4	1.50
Title Value	6.00

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No. 46, Apr. 1990-Present (1.25-c)
Marvel Comics

46-62	1.25
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Dec, 1985 - No. 3, 1986 ($2.00, Baxter paper)
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1-3	3.00
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1990-No. 2, 1990 (4.50-c)
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Apr. 1987-No. 4, July 1987 (1.50, color, mini-series)
Marvel Comics Group

1	3.80
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Oct. 1988-No. 4, Jan. 1989 (1.00, color, mini-series)
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DC Comics

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ZEN INTERGALACTIC NINJA Stern & Cote- Cover Pr
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No. 11, Jan. 1987 - Present
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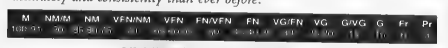

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25 ... MOVIE/TV ADAPTATION COMICS (mostly Dell & Gold Key; mostly photo covers). Suspended, new list due in July.
26, 26A ... GOLD & SILVER AGE DCs; EARLY MARVELS
27-28 .. HARVEYS, ARCHIES.
29, 29A...SILVER AGE MARVEL, DC, GOLD, SILVER, BRONZE AGE UPDATE Expires 8/1/91.
29B, 29C...HARVEY, ARCHIE UPDATE; MAD; CLASSICS Expires 8/1/91
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33-34 ... COMIC FORMAT PUBLICATIONS- more FURTHER READING, BLAZING NEW TRAILS (The Weird & The Wonderful) fanzines & miscellaneous publications of all kinds.
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39 ... HOLLYWOOD 40s TO 60s, SUSPENDED new list due in July.
40-41 ... PAPERBACKS: Sci-Fi, Frazetta covers, Jones covers, Cartoon & Comic P/Bs, Sports
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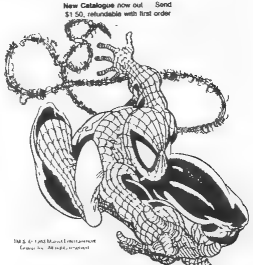

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Predator II Movie adaptation #1

DC

Action 654
Action 662 *(Clark reveals identity!)*
Action 664 *(Dinosaurs!)*
Adv. of Superman 467
Batman 442 *(1st Tim Drake as Robin!)*
Batman 443-448
Batman 457 *(New Robin Costume, HOT!!!)*
Batman 462,463
Books of Magic 3,4 (Painted art)
Demon #12 *(Lobo vs the Demon! HOT Bisley Cover!)*
Detective 610,612,615
Gotham by Gaslight *(Batman!)*
Green Lantern: Emerald Dawn 3
Green Lantern: Emerald Dawn Book II #2,3,4
Legends of the Dark Knight 1,2
Legends of the Dark Knight 3,4,5
Legends of the Dark Knight 6,7,8,9
Lobo 1 *(Bisley art, VERY HOT!)*
Lobo 2
Lobo 3
Lobo 4
Robin 1 *(Bolland covers, SUPER HOT!!!)*
Robin 2
Robin 3
Robin 4,5
Starman 34 *(BATMAN! HOT!)*
Superman 53 *(Sequel to Action 662)*

MARVEL

Amaz Spidey' 328 *(vs Hulk, McFarlane! VERY HOT!!!)*
Captain America 367
Cloak & Dagger 17 *(Spiderman! HOT!)*
Damage Control II #3
Daredevil 266
Darkhawk 1 *(New Series! HOT!)*
Darkhawk 3 *(w/ Spiderman! HOT!)*
Excalibur 18
FF 347 *(Ghost Rider, Spiderman, Hulk, Wolverine All star extravaganza by: Art Adams, HOT!!!)*
FF 348 *(Same as above, Art Adams! HOT!!!)*
FF 349 *(Punisher! Final Art Adams! HOT!!!)*
Ghost Rider 1 *(HOTTEST BOOK OF '90!)*
Guardians of the Galaxy 1 *(HOT!)*
Hulk 355
Hulk 377 *(New Mean Green Hulk! - HOT!!!)*
Marvel Tales 223
MCP 72 *(Weapon X, Wolverine Origin! Art by Barry Windsor Smith!!! VERY HOT!!!)*
MCP 77 *(More Weapon X HOT!!!)*
Moon Knight 25 *(Ghost Rider! VERY HOT!!!)*
Namor 1 *(John Byrne, HOT!)*
Namor 2
New Mutants 100 *(Debut X-Force HOT!)*
Punisher Armory #2 *(NEW! HOT!!!)*
Punisher 29
Punisher War Journal 15 *(Spiderman!)*
Spiderman 1 *(Silver or Purple Web)*
Spiderman 6 *(Ghost Rider vs Hobgoblin!)*
Spiderman 7 *(Ghost Rider conclusion!)*
Spiderman 8 *(& Wolverine vs. Wendigo! HOT!)*
Spiderman 9 *(Wolverine vs Wendigo!)*
Spiderman 10,11 *(More Wolverine & Wendigo!)*
Toxic Avenger 1 *(New Series! HOT!)*
Wolverine 20 *(John Byrne art!)*
Wolverine 21 *(Byrne!)*
Wolverine Jungle Adventure *(Annual 1!)*
Wolverine Bloodlust *(Annual 2 HOT!)*
X-Men 150 *(Magneto!)*
X-Men 151
X-Men 154-157,160
Classic X-Men 1 *(Art Adams art!)*

Independents

CreepsVille 1 *(Humor & Horror!)*
Cry for Dawn #4 *(Great Horror!)*
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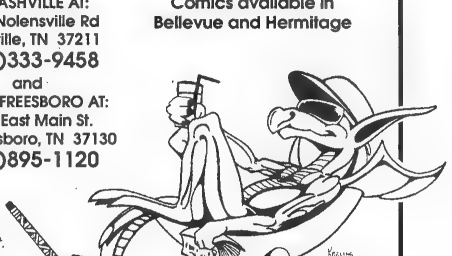

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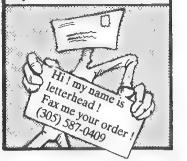
After that, littlePhillip was escorted to Tropic's *Japanamation and baseball card area* (we buy\sell\trade baseball cards)... unfortunatly, The obnoxious cartoonist *still* has a hard time drawing the guy who runs this, so we'll move on quickly...

Little Phillip's mind went *squishy-squishy* when he saw Tropics splendiferous mail order department which ships comics across the Globe !



Little Phillip was very happy to have found a wonderful comic book store like Tropic Comics. Unfortunatly, just then, the fat man ate him.

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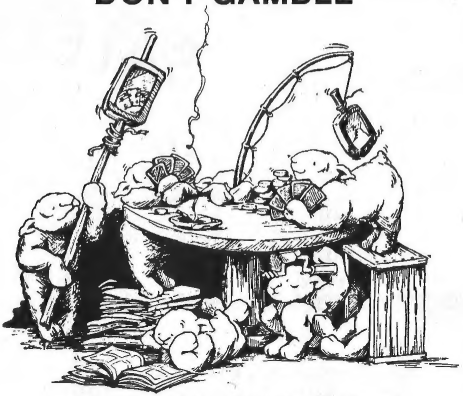

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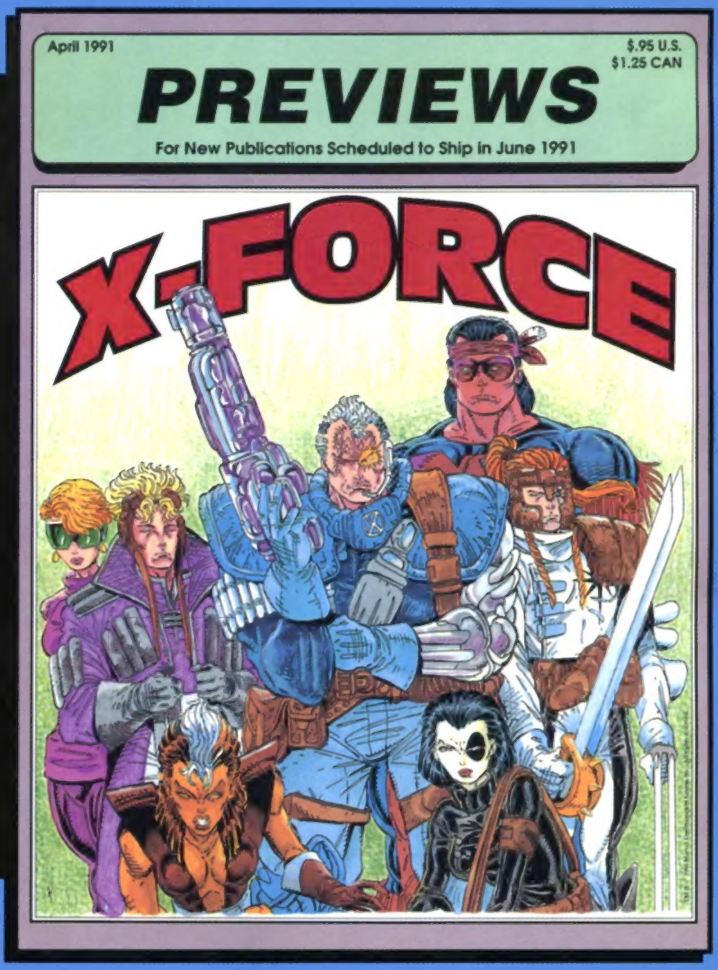

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